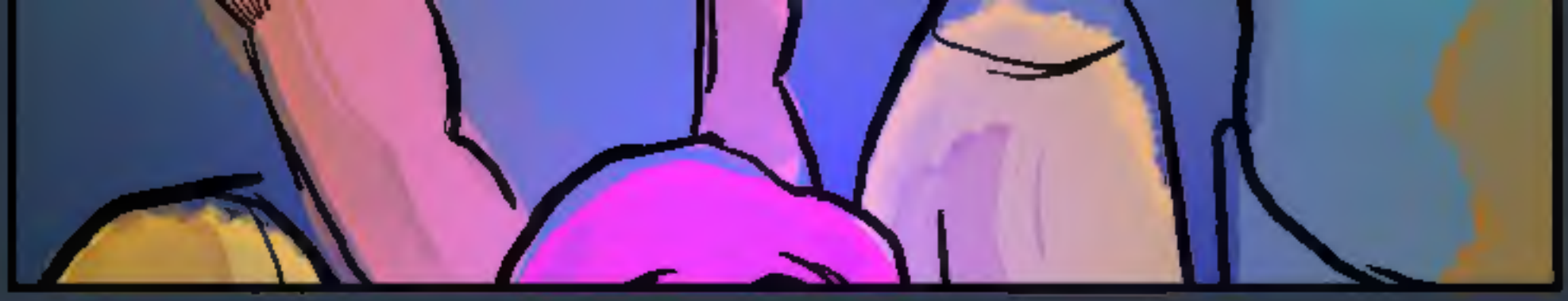
GYRUS?!

HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?!



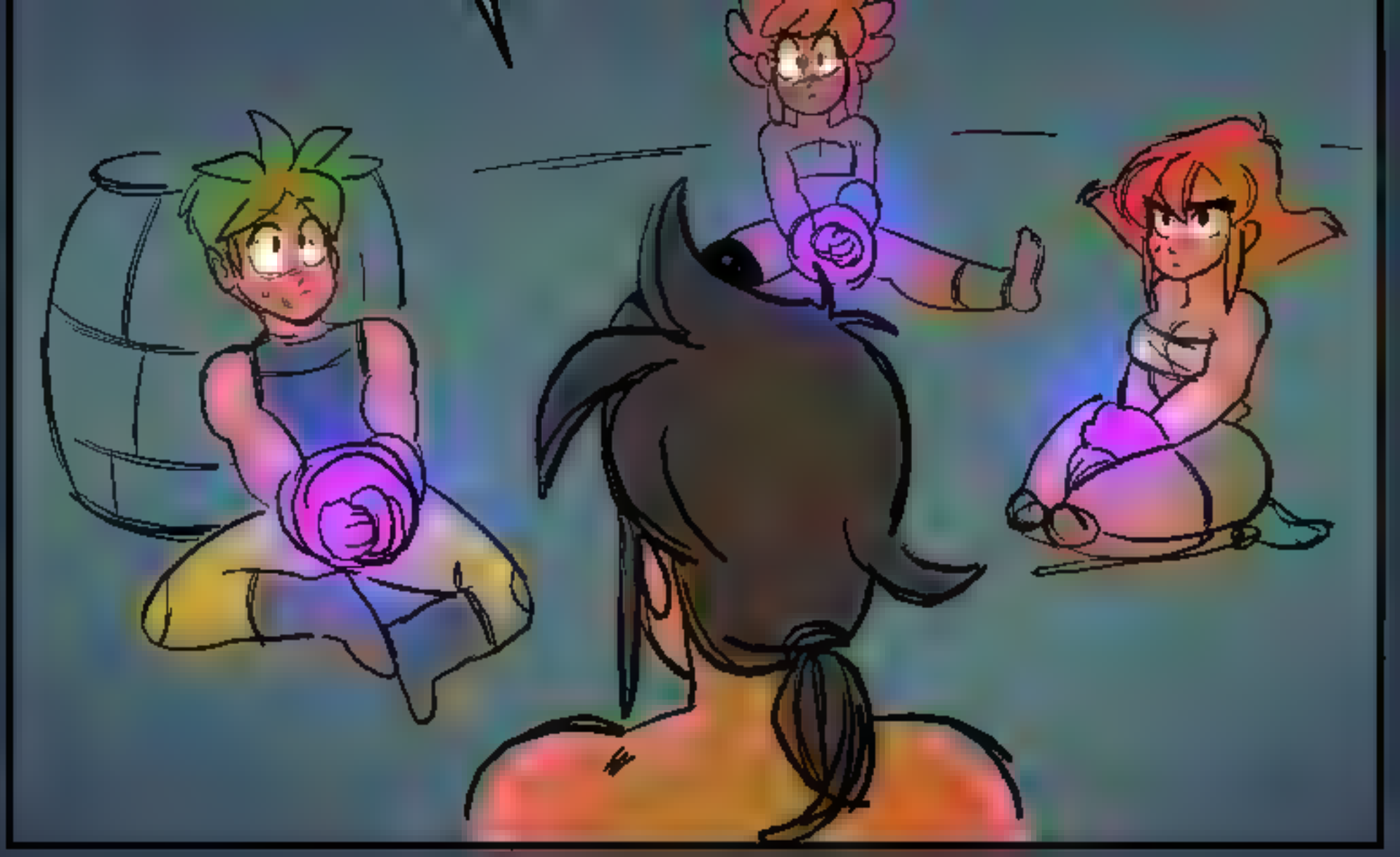
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS...
YOU LOOK... COMPLETELY PATHETIC.

...
EXCUSE ME?

WHO ARE YOU?

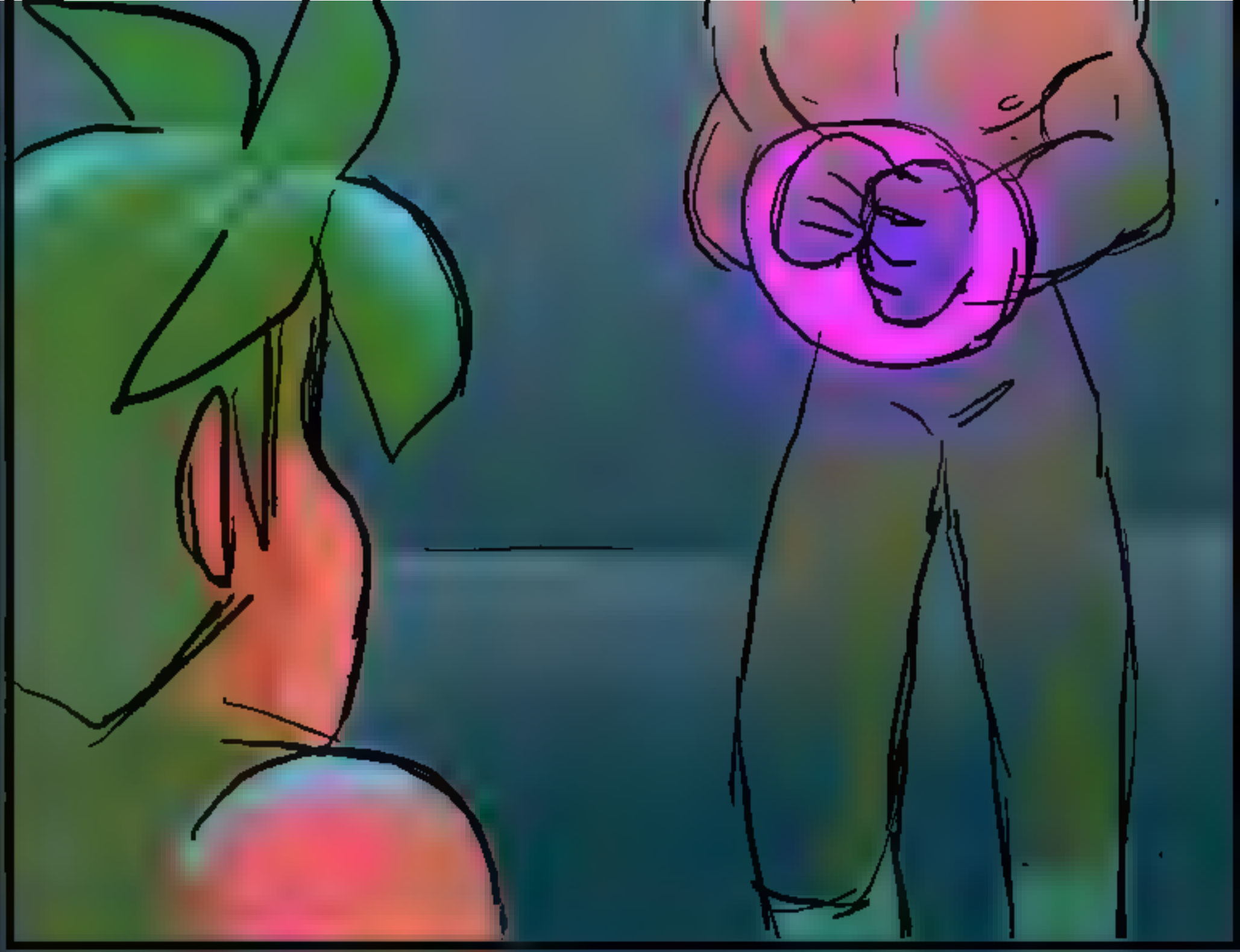
I'M KODYA.

WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.



"WE"?
BUT HOW
DO YOU-
WAIT!

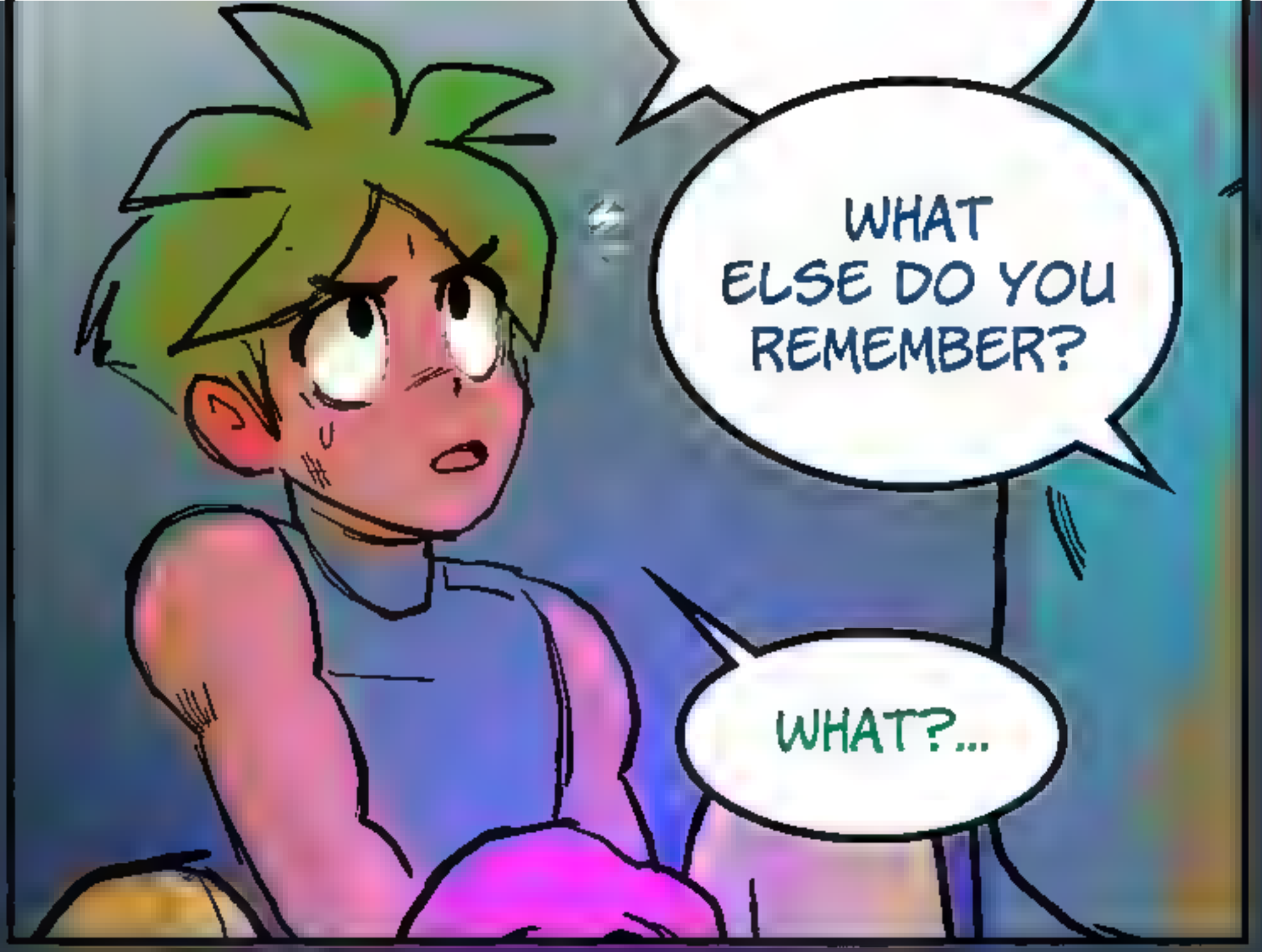
DO YOU MEAN...
DID YOU FIND DON!?
!?

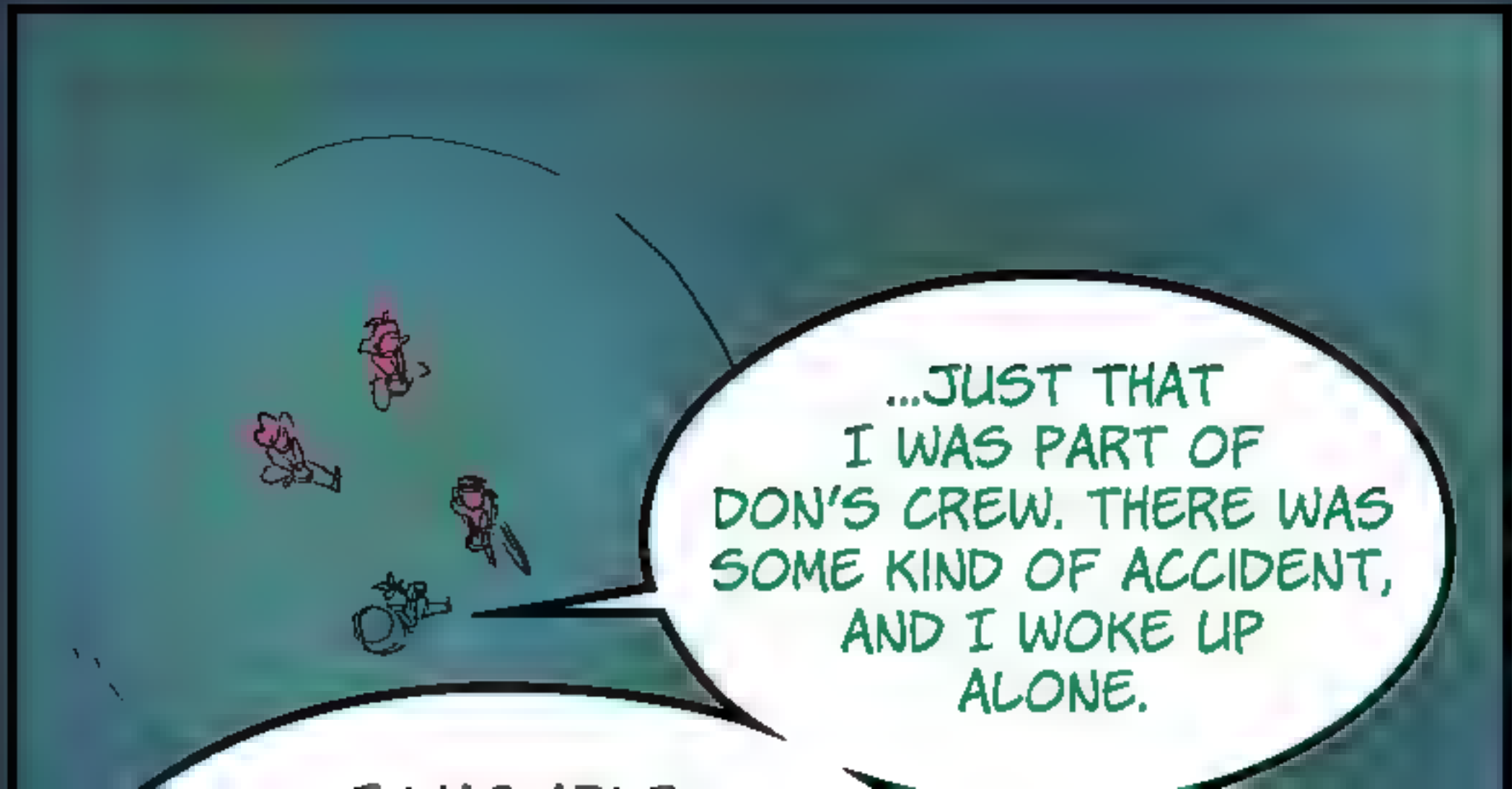


!?
YOU KNOW ABOUT DON?!

WELL, YEAH... DON IS MY CAPTAIN.

...WOW.
THAT... SOUNDS REALLY STRANGE COMING FROM YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU TALK--


WHAT ELSE DO YOU REMEMBER?
WHAT?...


...JUST THAT I WAS PART OF DON'S CREW. THERE WAS SOME KIND OF ACCIDENT, AND I WOKE UP ALONE.

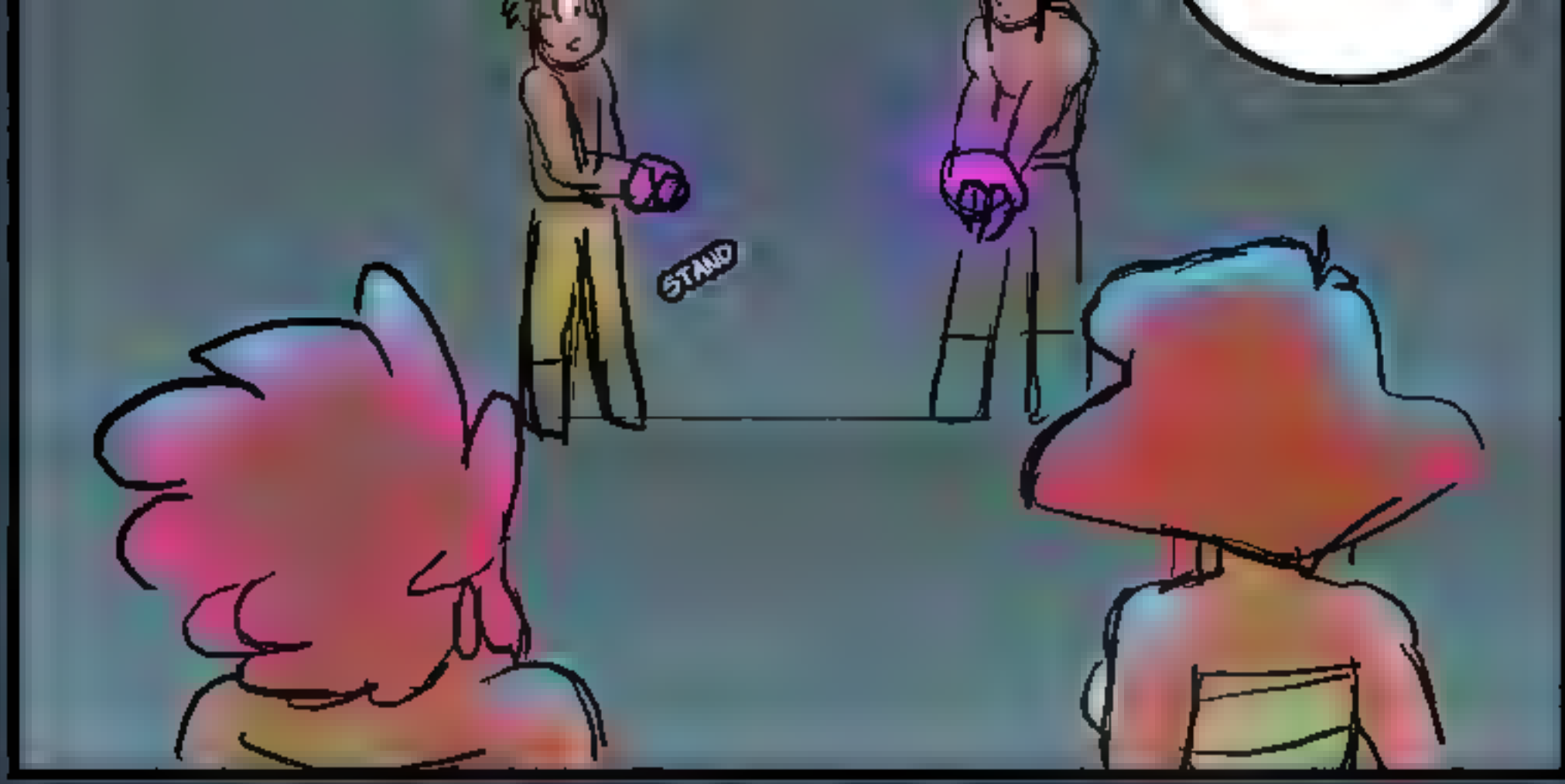
I WAS ABLE TO PICK UP A SIGNAL FROM DON. UNFORTUNATELY, I COULDN'T HEAR MUCH. THERE WAS A LOT OF STATIC...
...BUT MY SCOUT UNIT TRIANGULATED THE ORIGIN POINT...

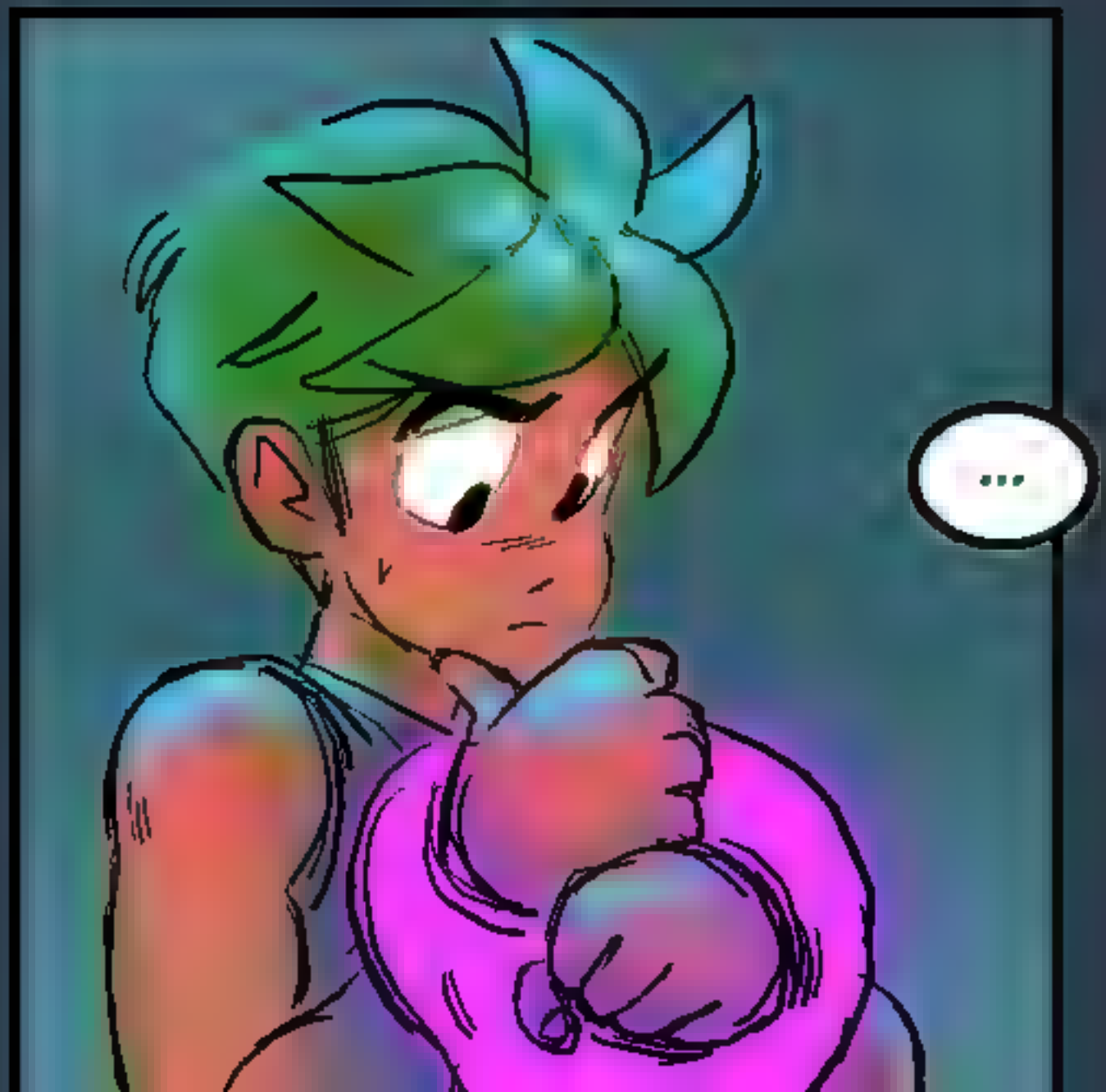
WE FOLLOWED IT ALL THE WAY TO THE SOURCE, AND THAT'S WHERE WE GOT CAPTURED.
I DIDN'T SEE ANY SIGN OF DON OR THE SHIP...

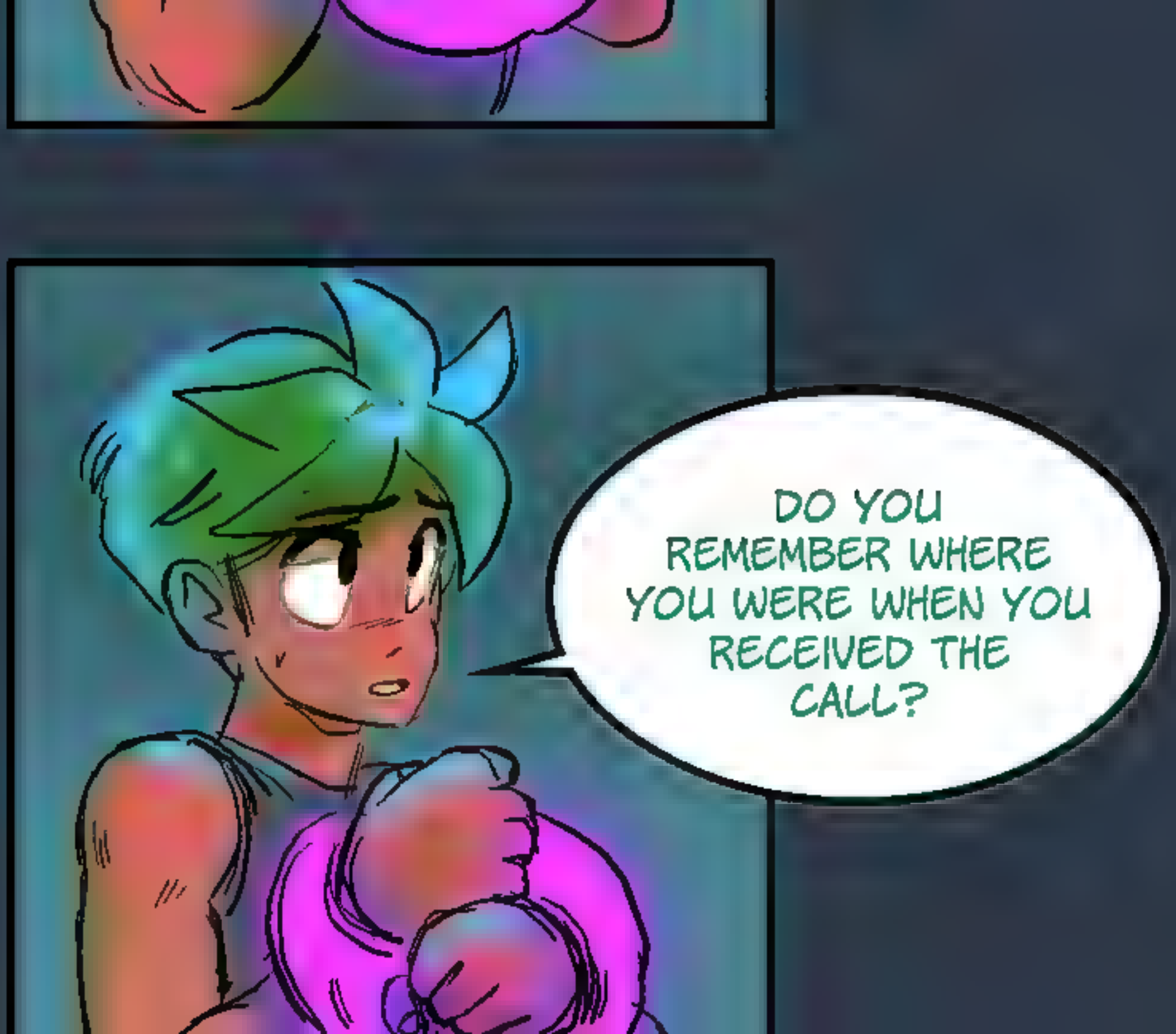
WAIT,
WAIT,
WAIT...
PINCH

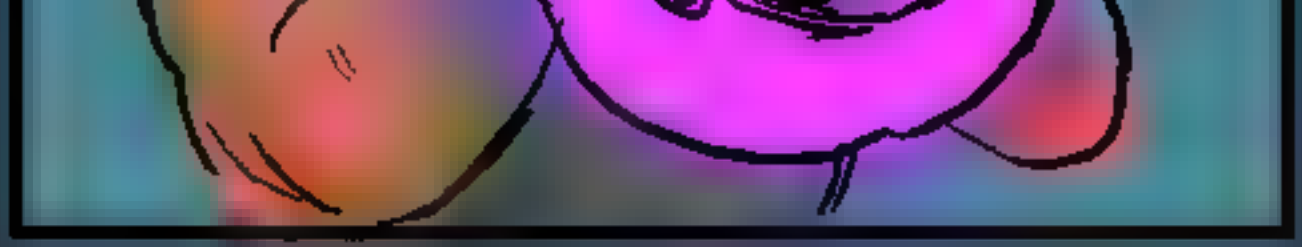
YOU WERE THE ONE INTERCEPTING MY CALL WITH DON!

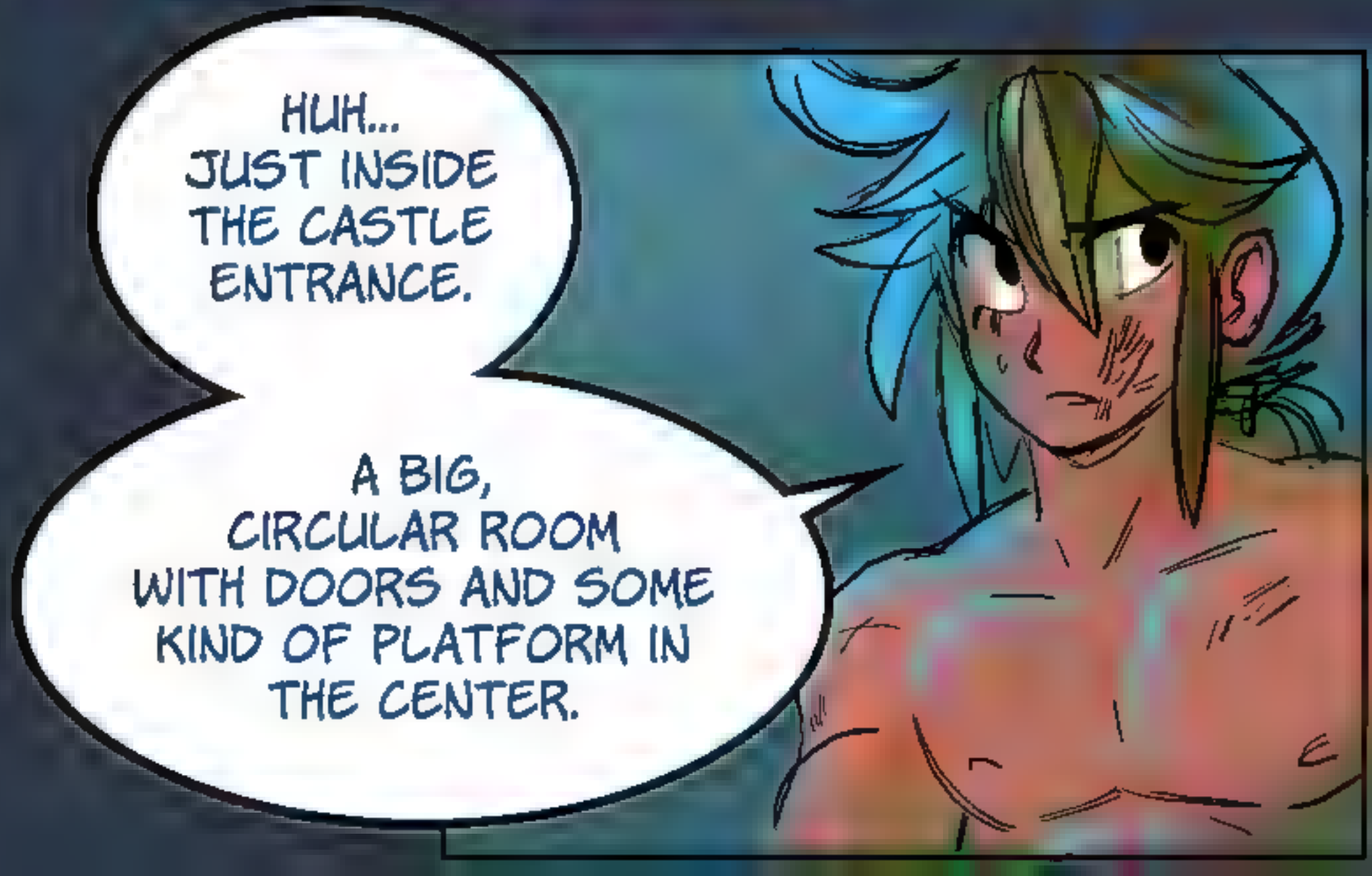
...THE CALL WAS FOR YOU!?
I'M AFRAID SO...


STAND




DO YOU REMEMBER WHERE YOU WERE WHEN YOU RECEIVED THE CALL?



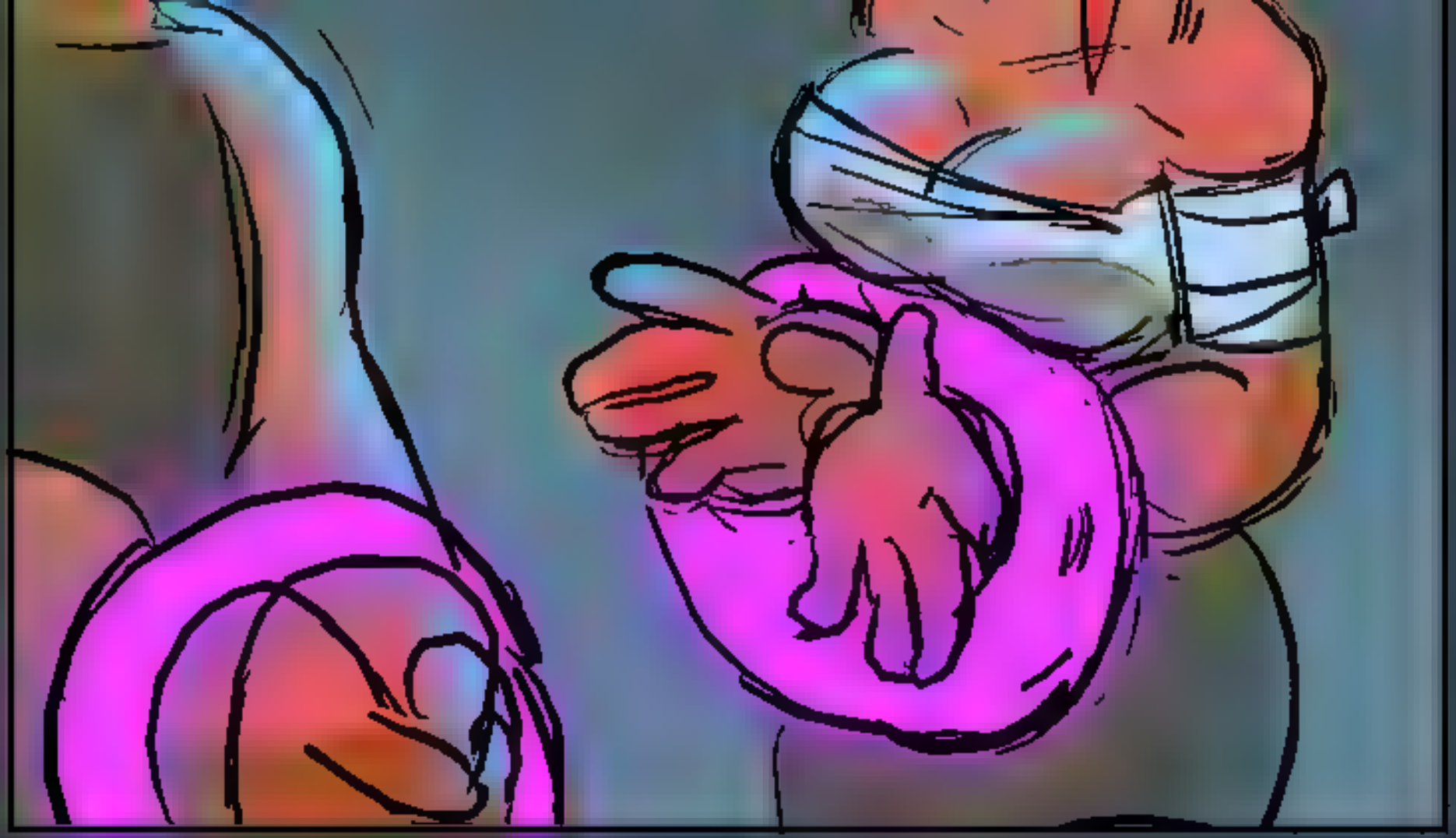

HUH...
JUST INSIDE THE CASTLE ENTRANCE.
A BIG, CIRCULAR ROOM WITH DOORS AND SOME KIND OF PLATFORM IN THE CENTER.

THAT'S WHERE WE FOLLOWED THE SIGNAL TO!

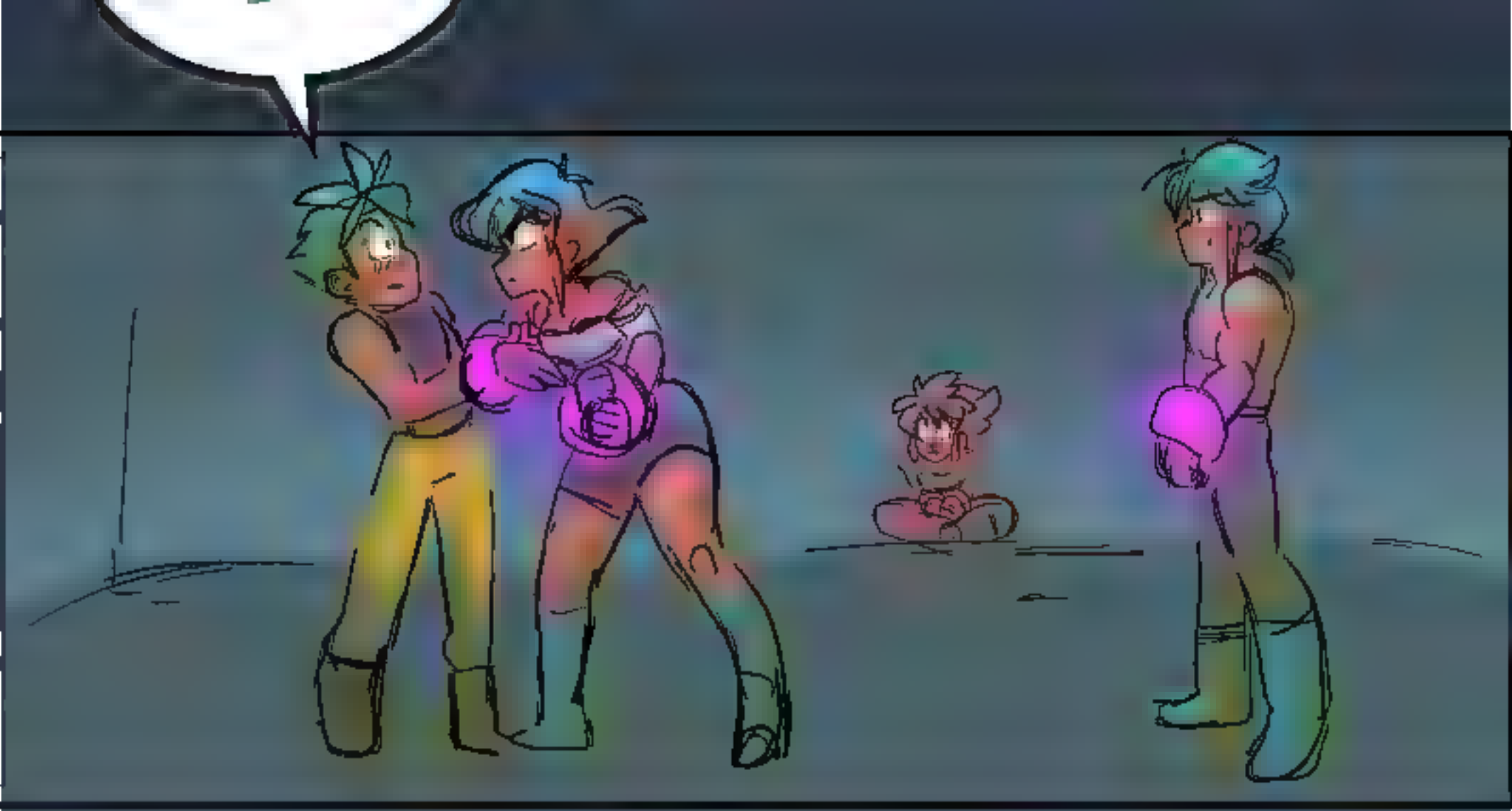
SO IT WAS
YOU, THE SHIP
WAS NEVER THERE...
AND NEITHER WAS
DON.

...
GYRUS?
TAK
TAK

DO YE MEAN TO TELL ME THERE IS NO SHIP!?

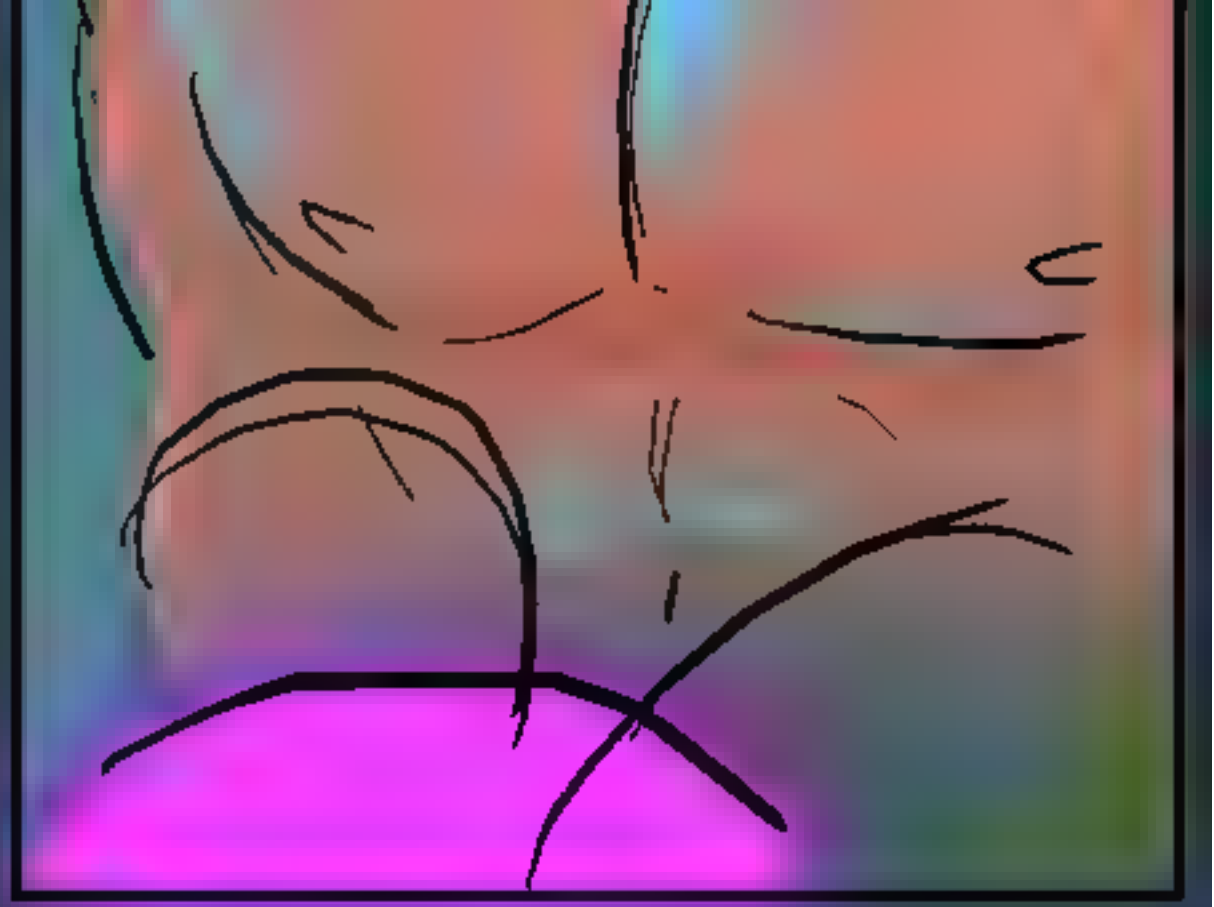


WELL, I--



IT HAS TO BE HERE SOMEWHERE... IT MUST BE WITH DON!
TURN

SORRY TO BREAK IT TO YOU, BUT THERE'S NO SHIP, KID.

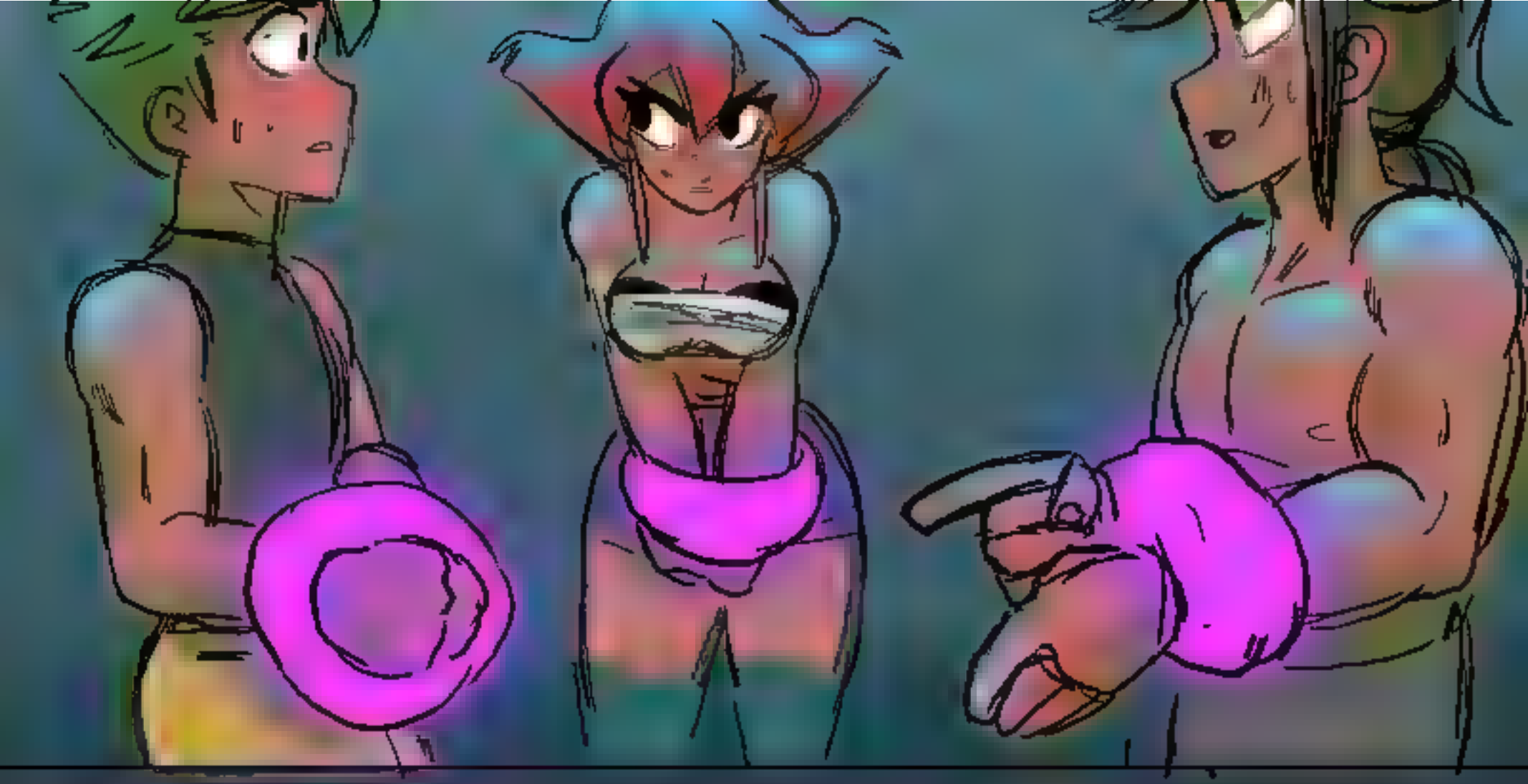


Y-YOU'RE WRONG!
IT HAS TO

BE HERE!
THINK ABOUT IT ...
DO YOU ACTUALLY REMEMBER THAT "ACCIDENT"?

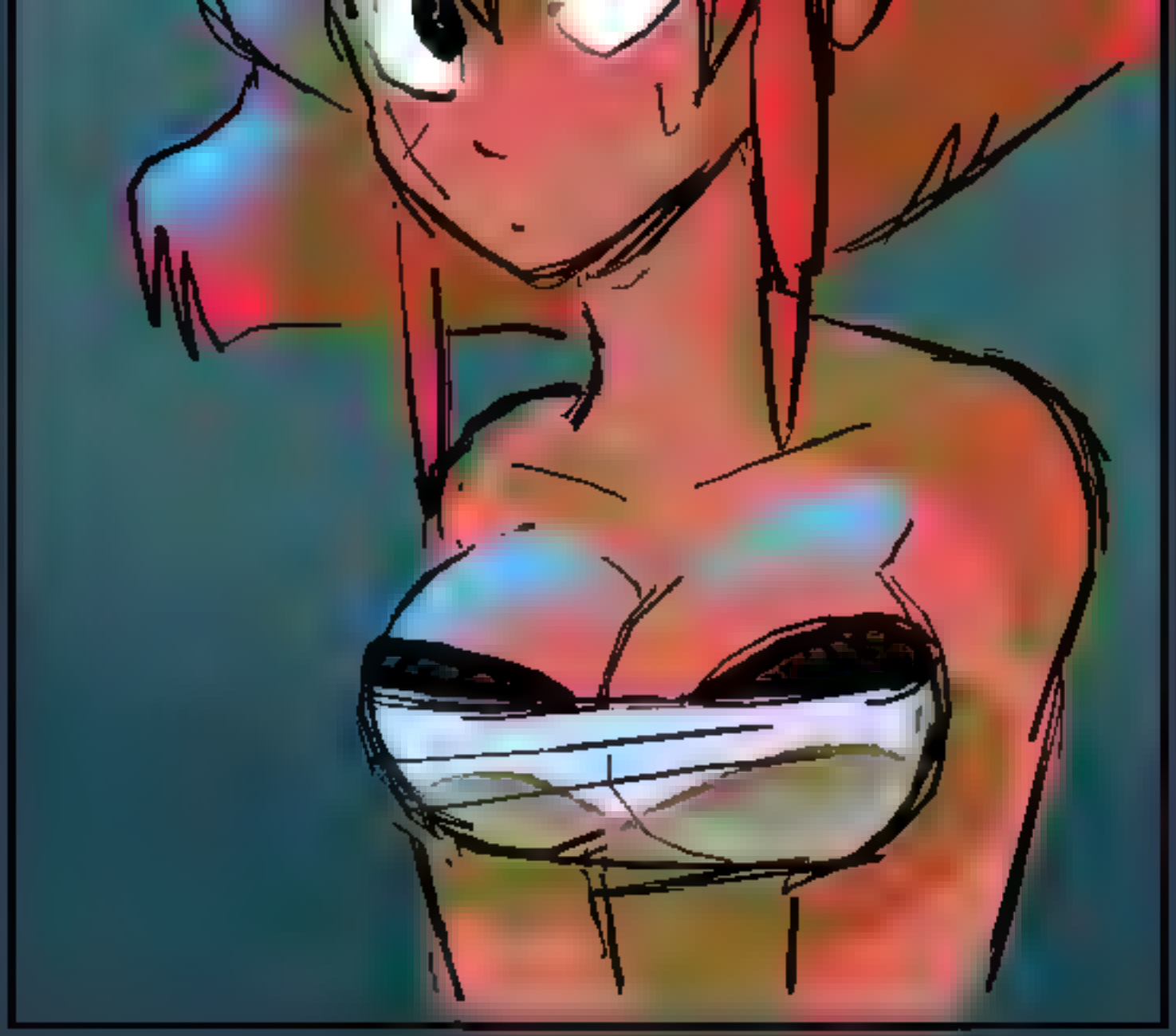
I...
WHAT?

THE "ACCIDENT".
YOU SAID "THERE WAS SOME KIND OF ACCIDENT" AND YOU WOKE UP ALONE.
I BET YOU DON'T REMEMBER IT AT ALL, DO YOU?

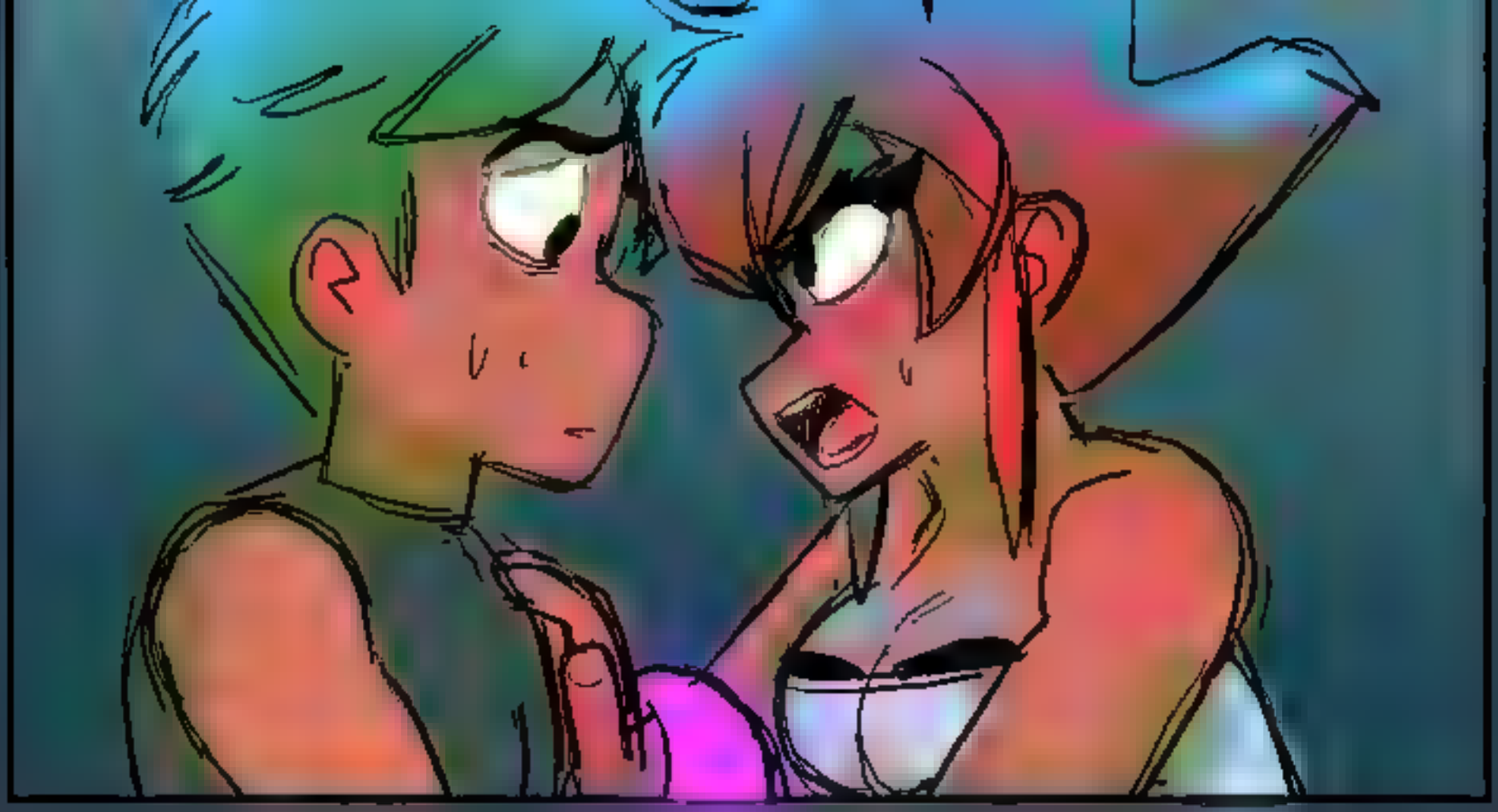


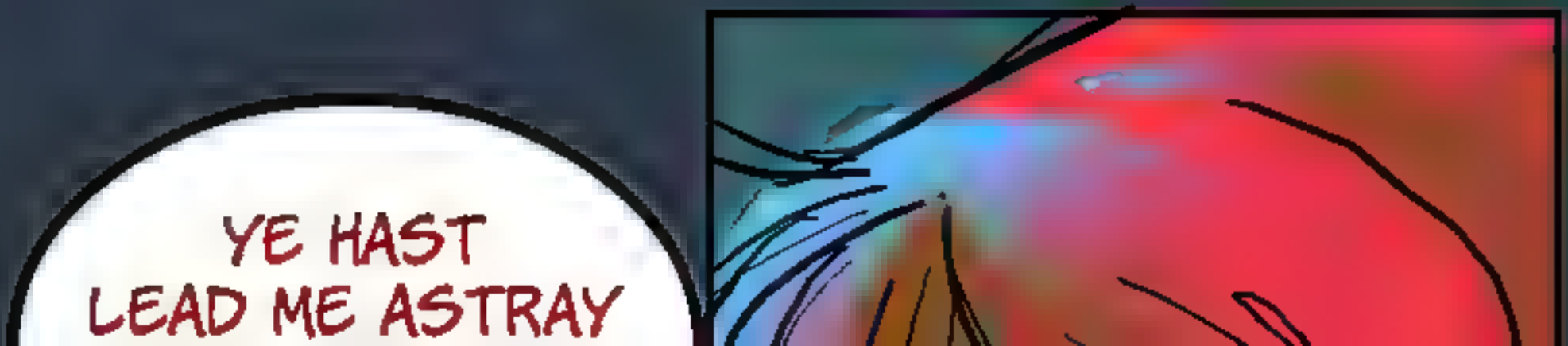
...
FUNNY HOW YOUR MIND STARTS FILLING IN THE BLANKS, ISN'T IT?
TRUST ME, THERE WAS NO ACCIDENT, AND THERE'S

NO SHIT. THIS PUBES IS SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY...
I'M SURE YOU'VE SENSED THAT, AT LEAST. YOU MAY LOOK USELESS, BUT YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN PRETTY SMART, RIGHT?

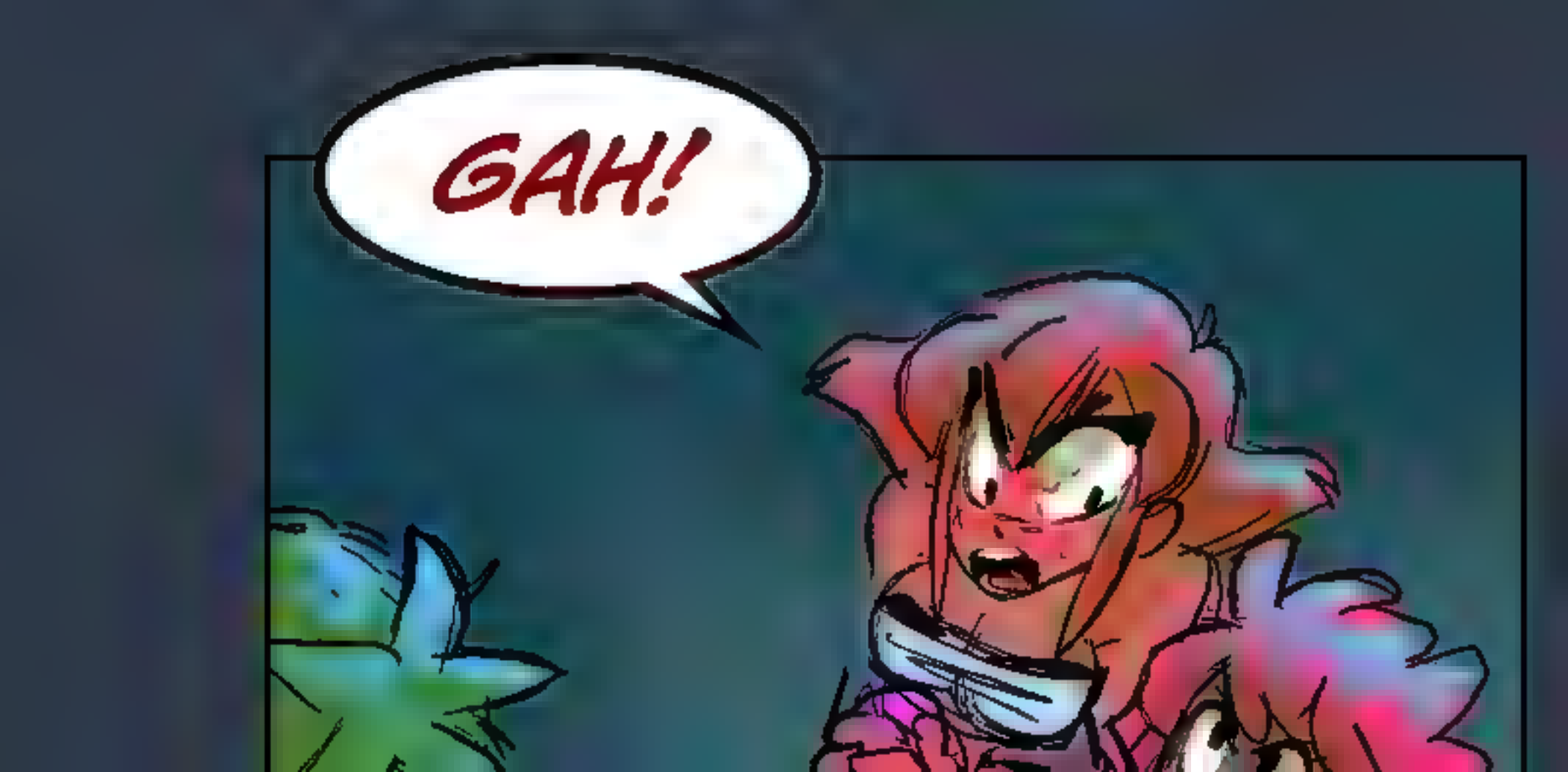


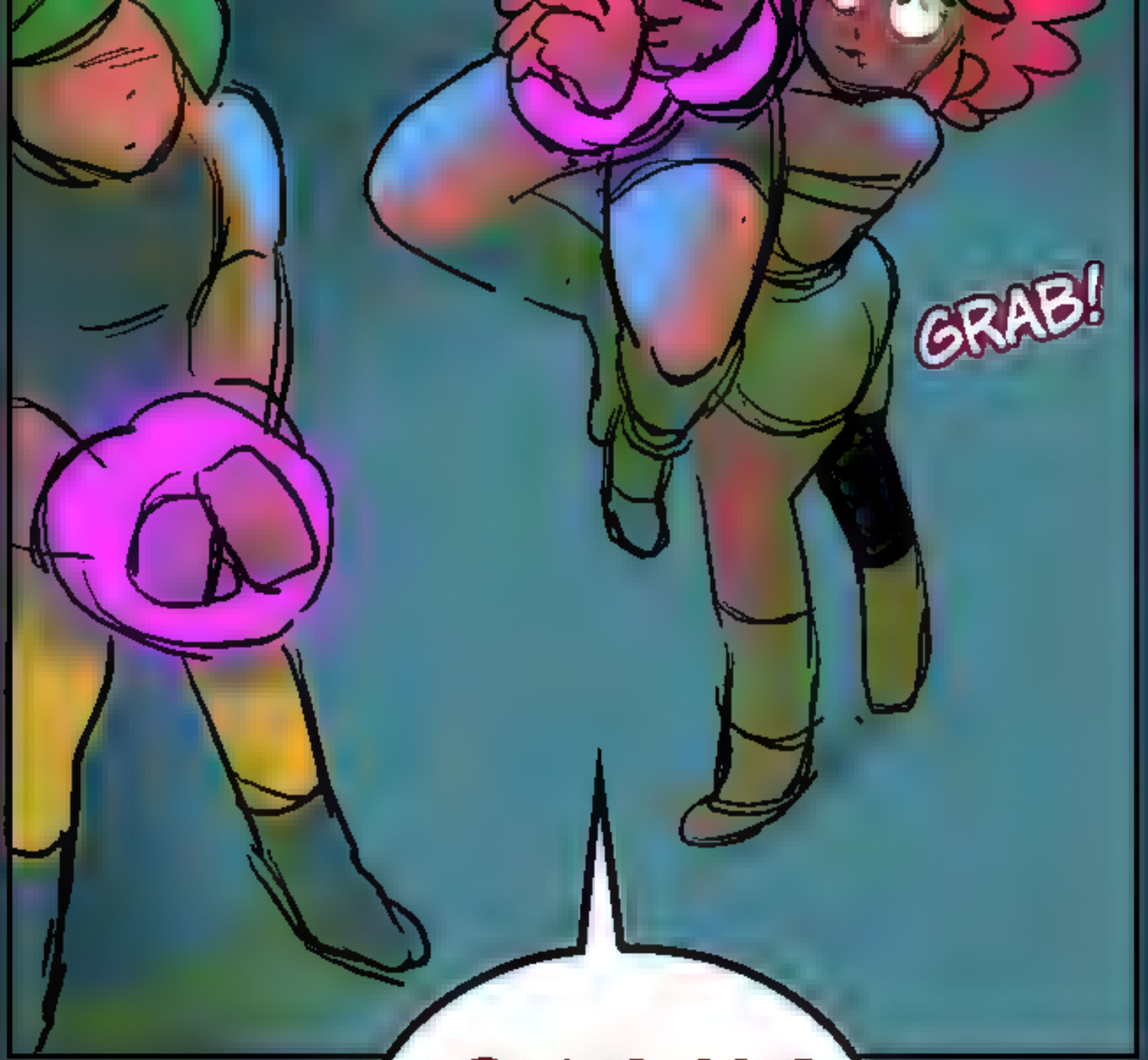
I KNEW IT!
WHY DID I LISTEN TO THAT RIDICULOUS STORY OF THINE!?

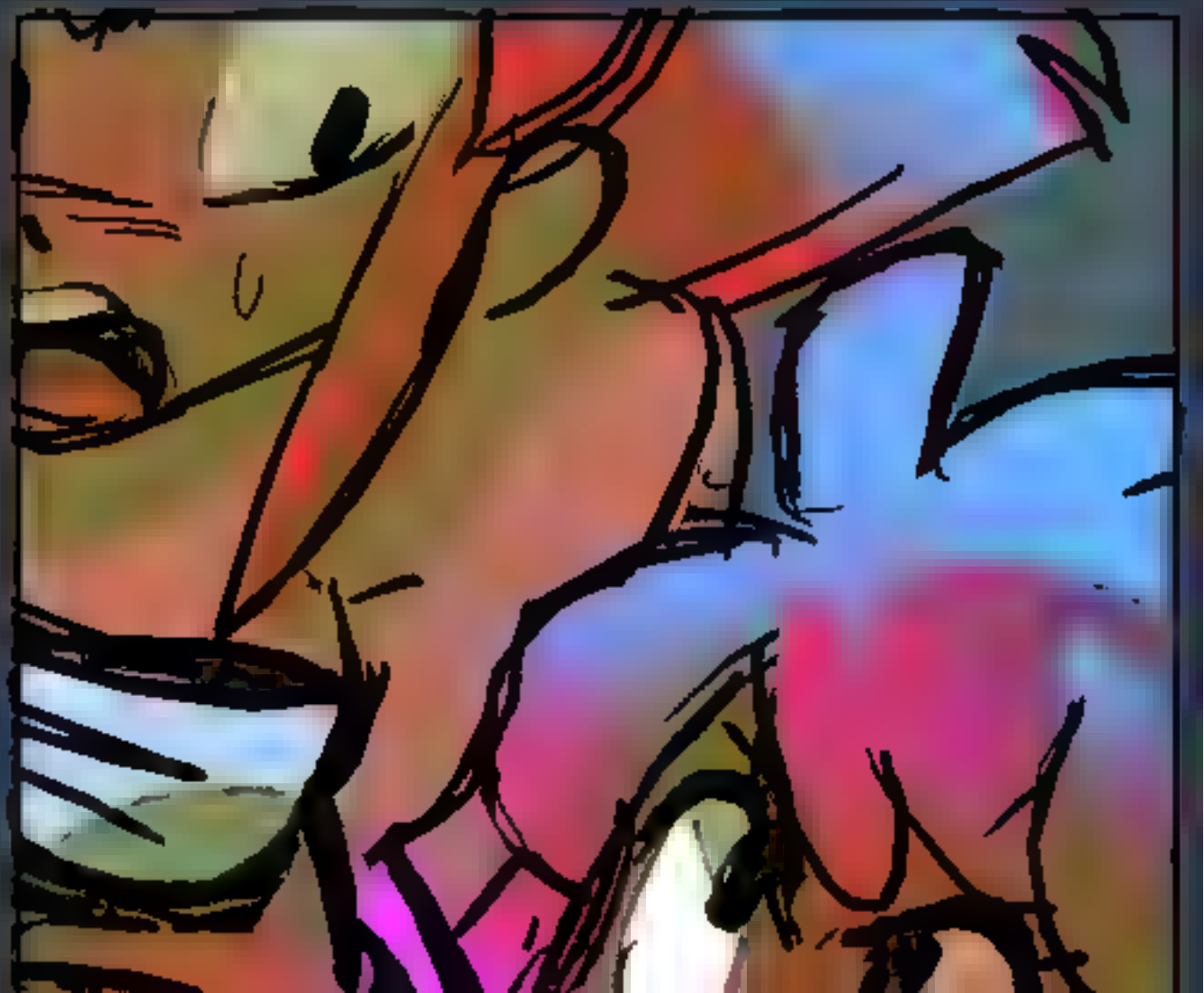


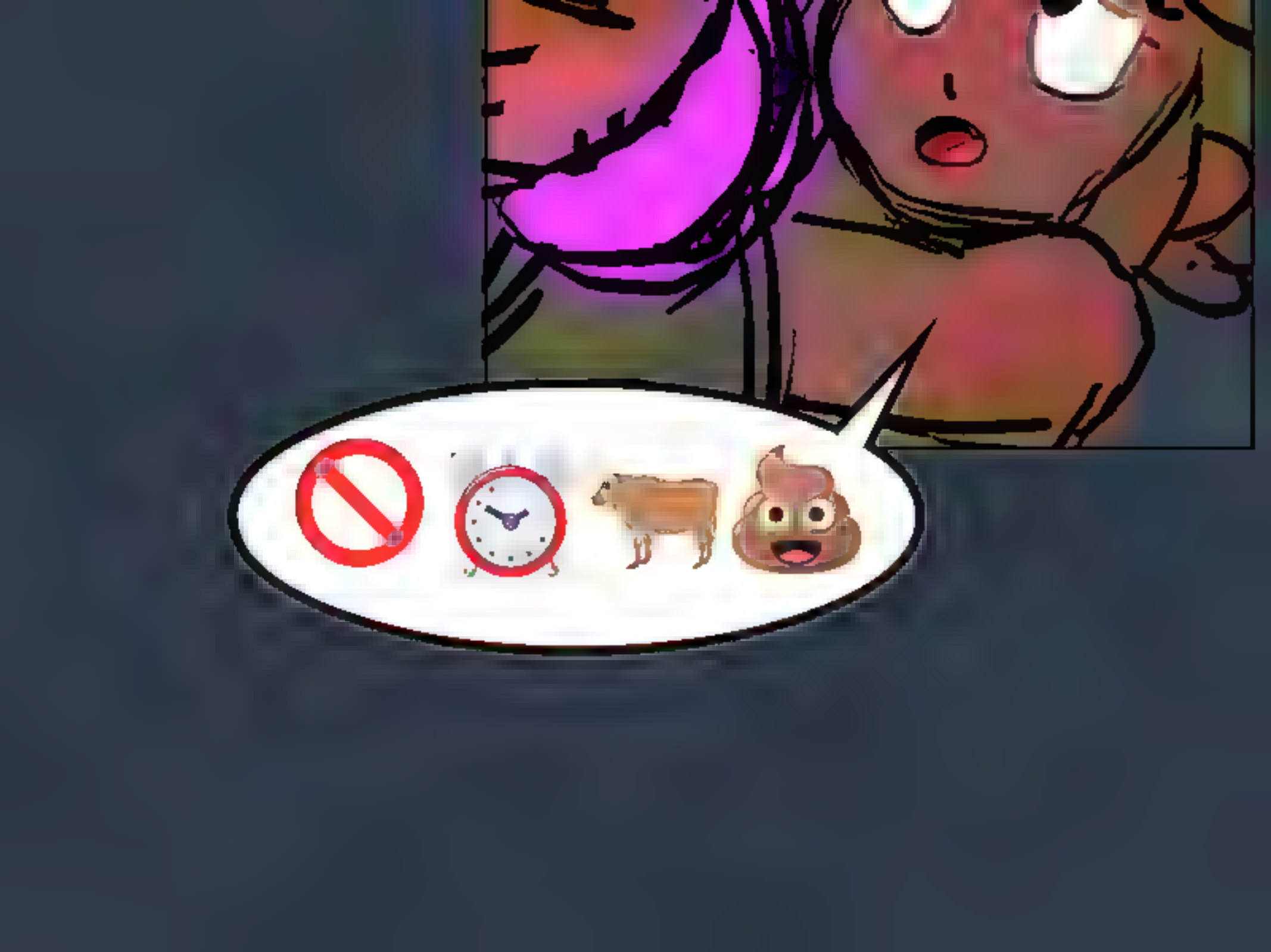

YE HAST
LEAD ME ASTRAY

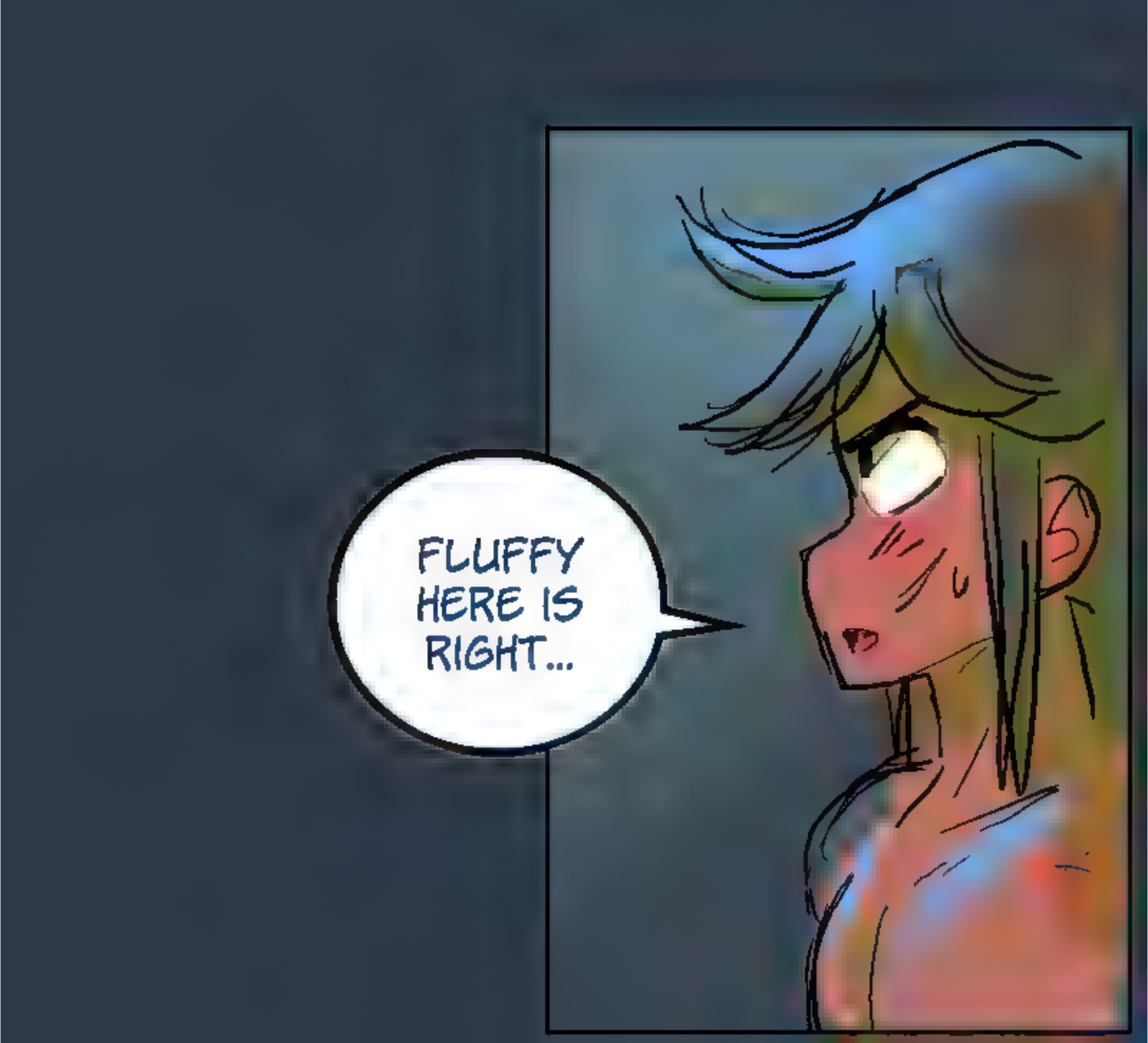
WHILE MY QUEEN DIES.
I DEFENDED YE! AND NOW I AM TRAPPED ALL BECAUSE YE CAN'T EVEN FIGHT!
AND FOR NOTHING!


GAH!

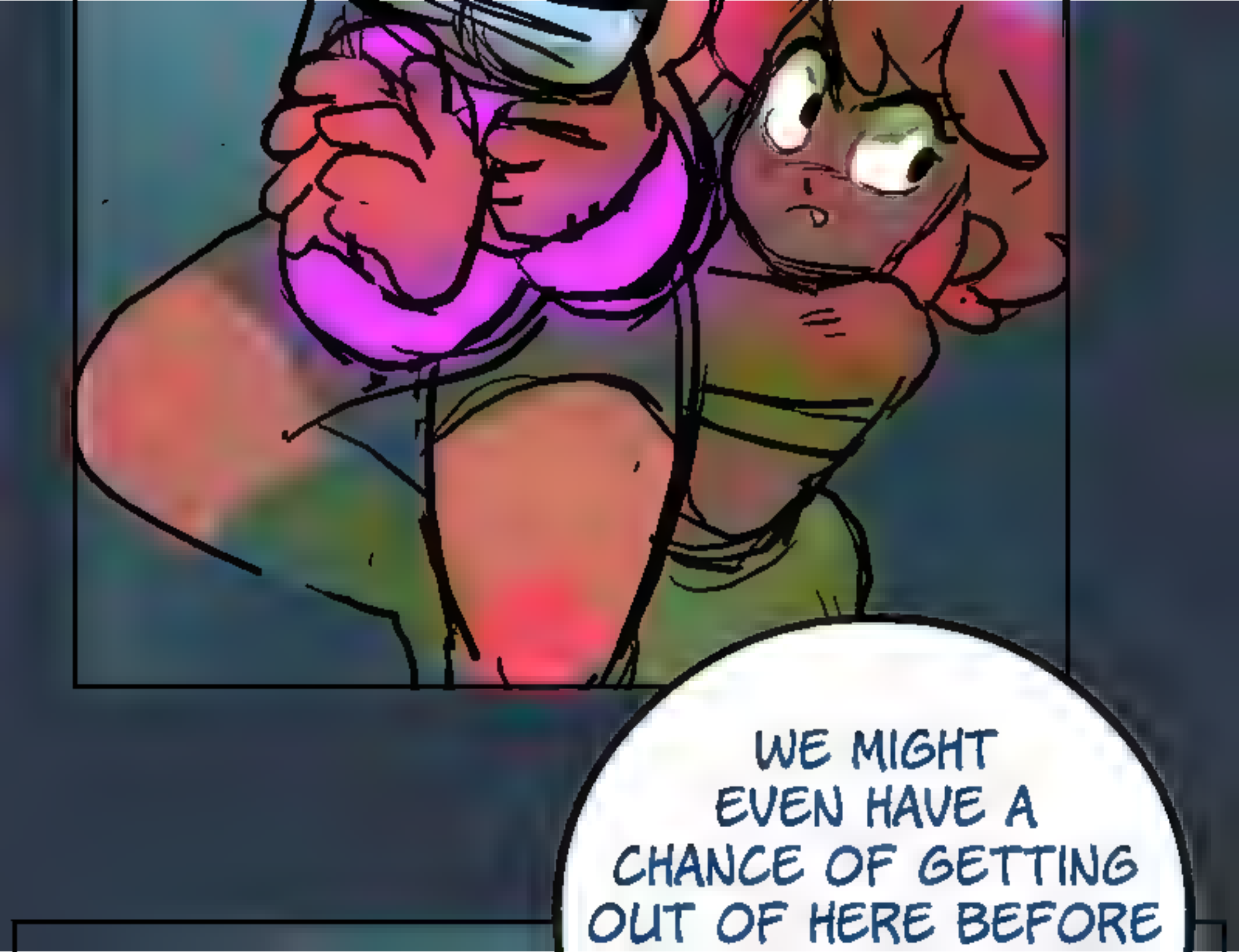

GRAB!
PUT ME DOWN!






FLUFFY HERE IS RIGHT...

WE MAY HAVE OUR DIFFERENCES... BUT WE'RE BETTER OFF WORKING AS A TEAM.


WE MIGHT EVEN HAVE A CHANCE OF GETTING OUT OF HERE BEFORE

ONE OF THOSE *THINGS* SHOW UP.

WHAT DO YE MEAN, *"THINGS"*?

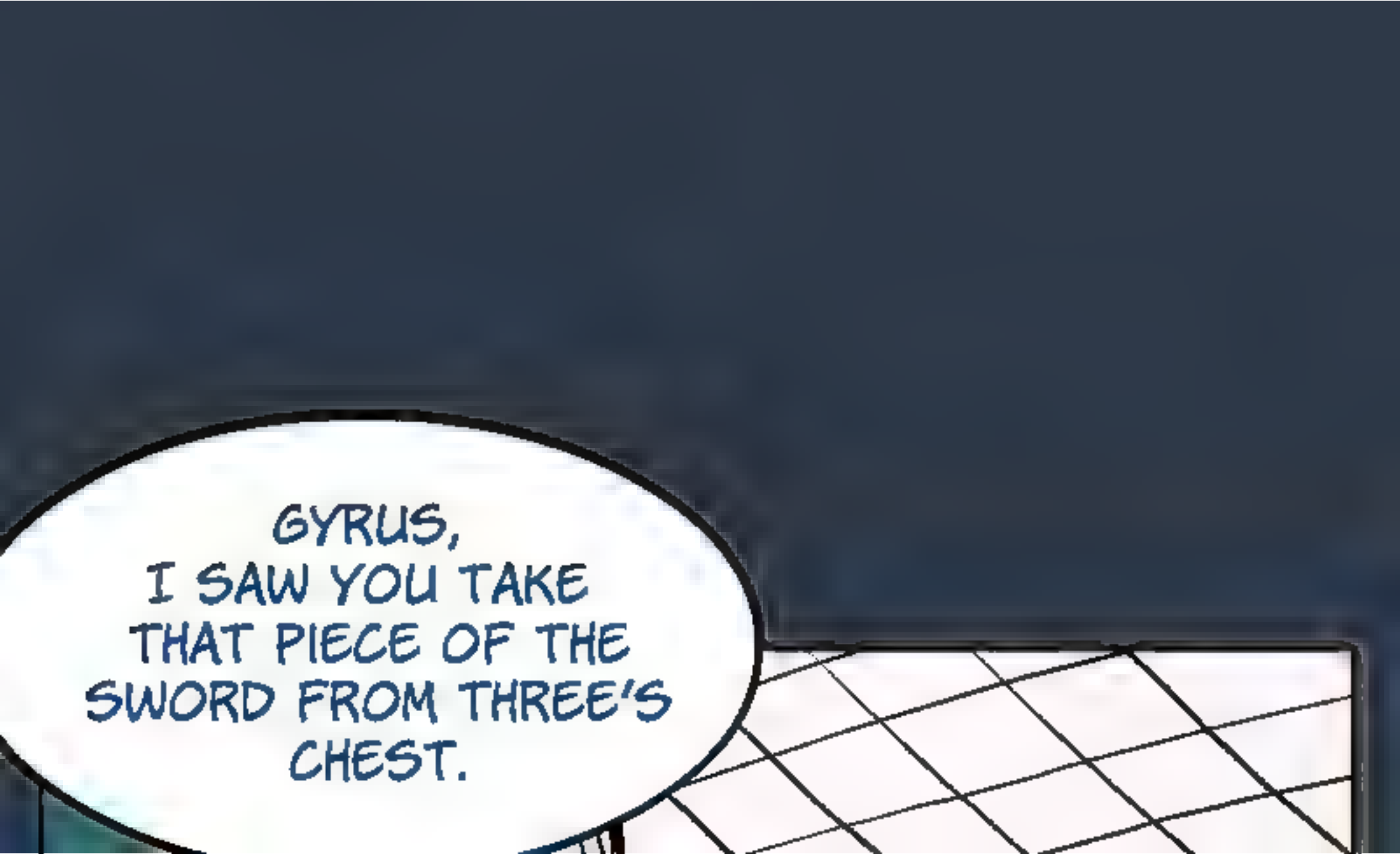
SEE THAT OBJECT IN THE SKY?

WHEN THAT DISAPPEARS...

...WE
ALL DIE.

AND THE CLOSER IT GETS, THE MORE NASTY STUFF SHOWS UP THAT YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO BE AROUND FOR.

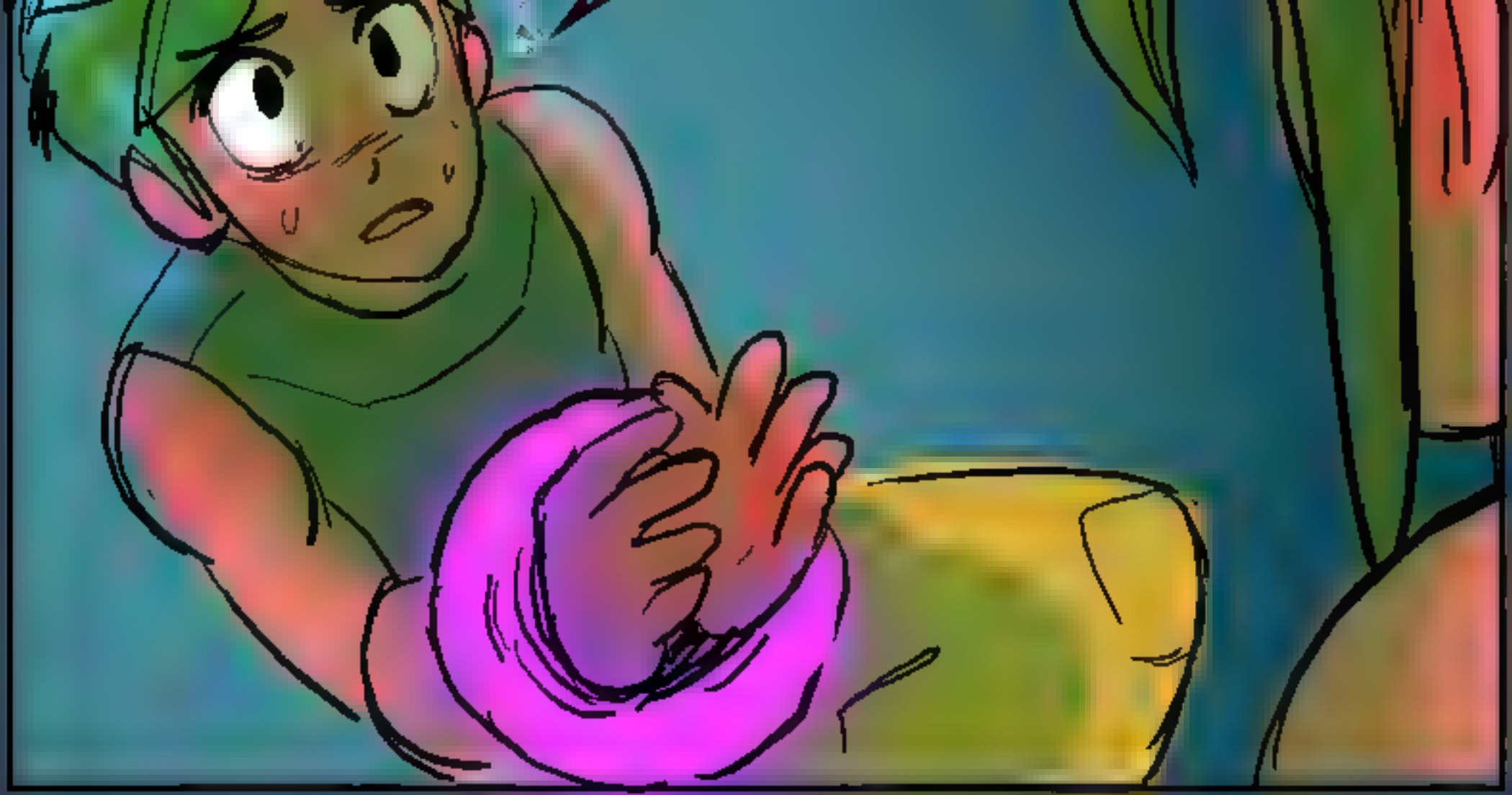
CHAPTER 19
"VIRTUAL REALITY"

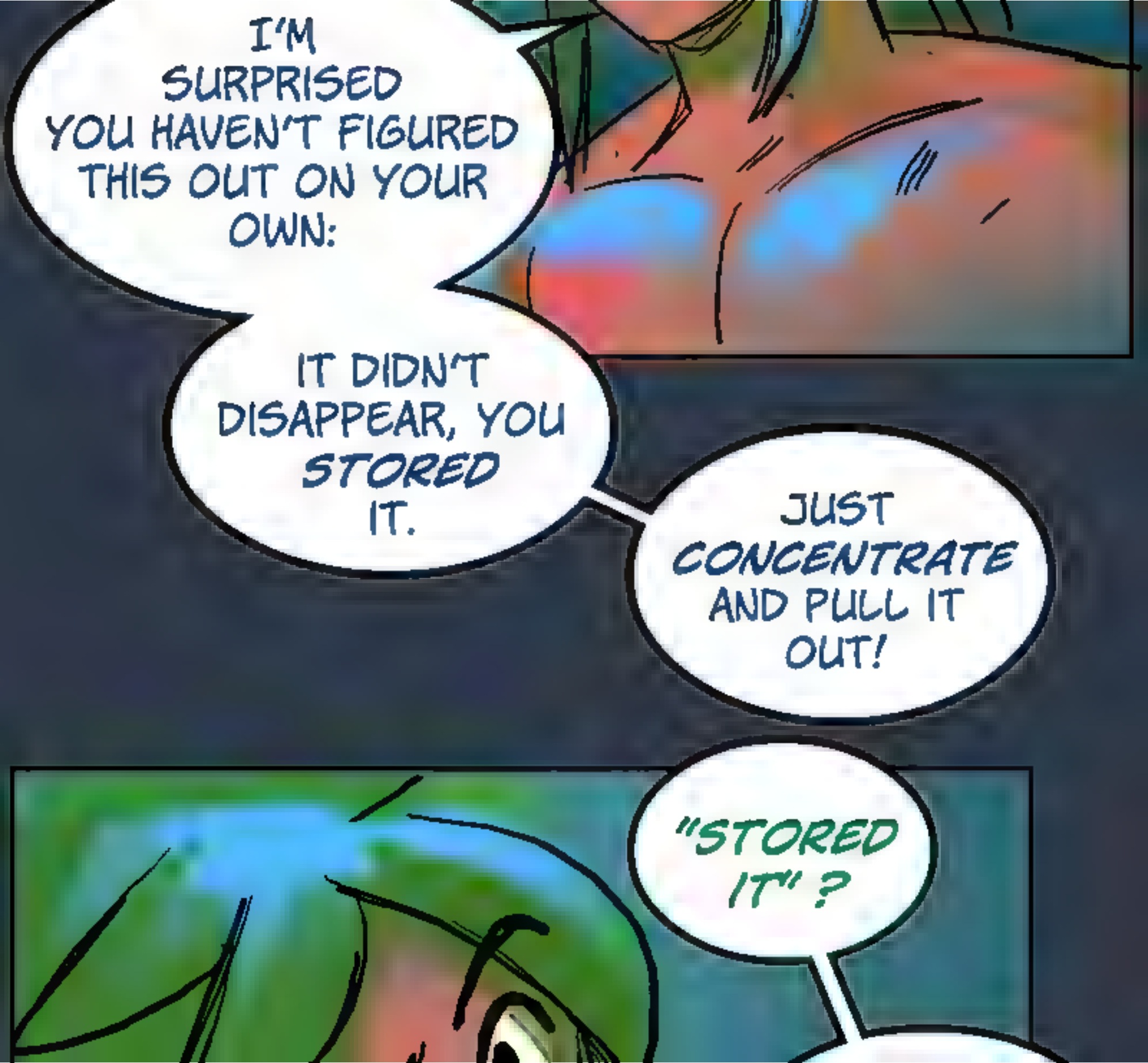

GYRUS,
I SAW YOU TAKE
THAT PIECE OF THE
SWORD FROM THREE'S
CHEST.

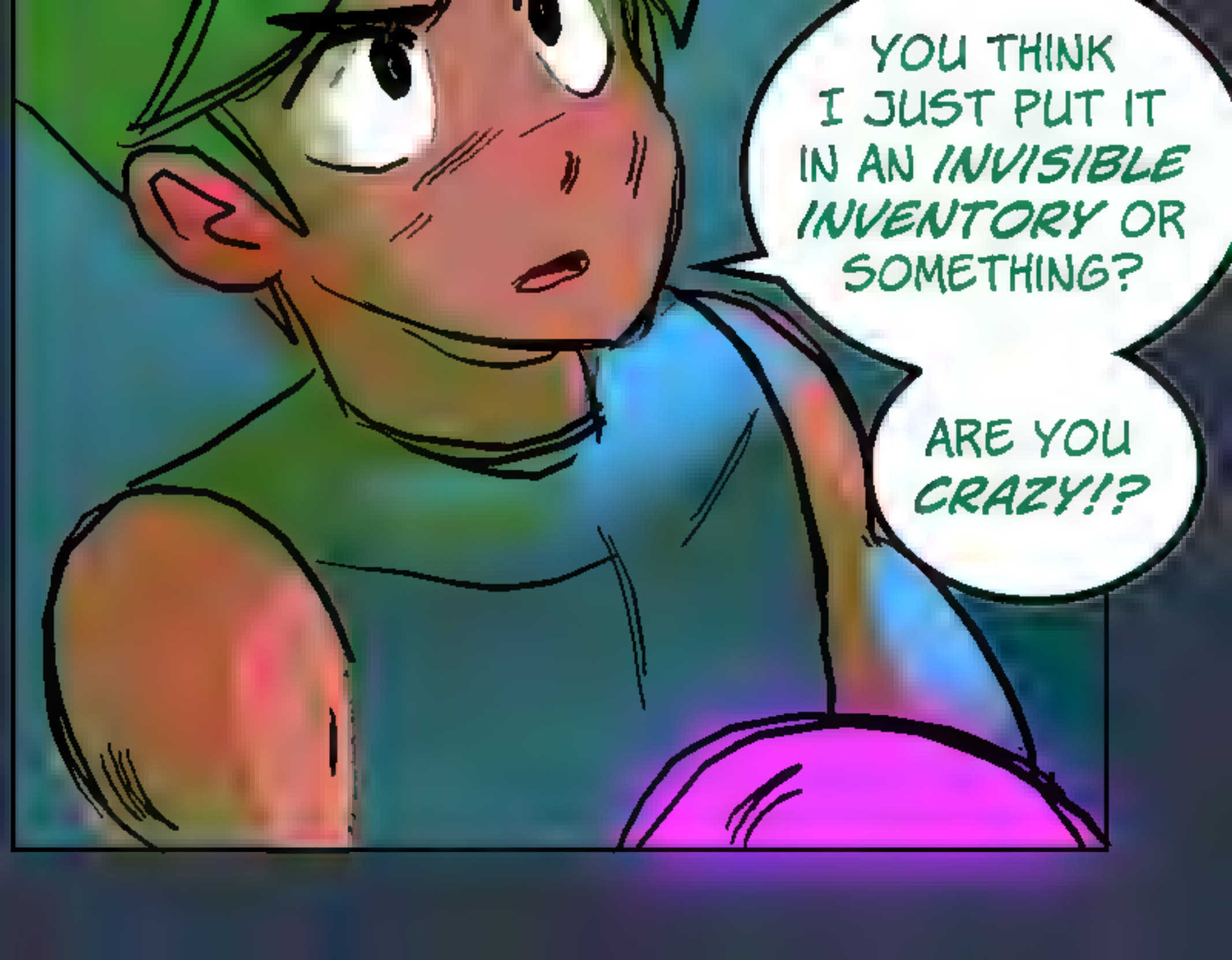
I'M GOING TO NEED YOU TO GIVE IT TO

ME NOW.

BUT I DON'T HAVE IT ANYMORE... IT DISAPPEARED WHEN I WAS HOLDING IT...
I HAVEN'T SEEN IT IN HOURS!

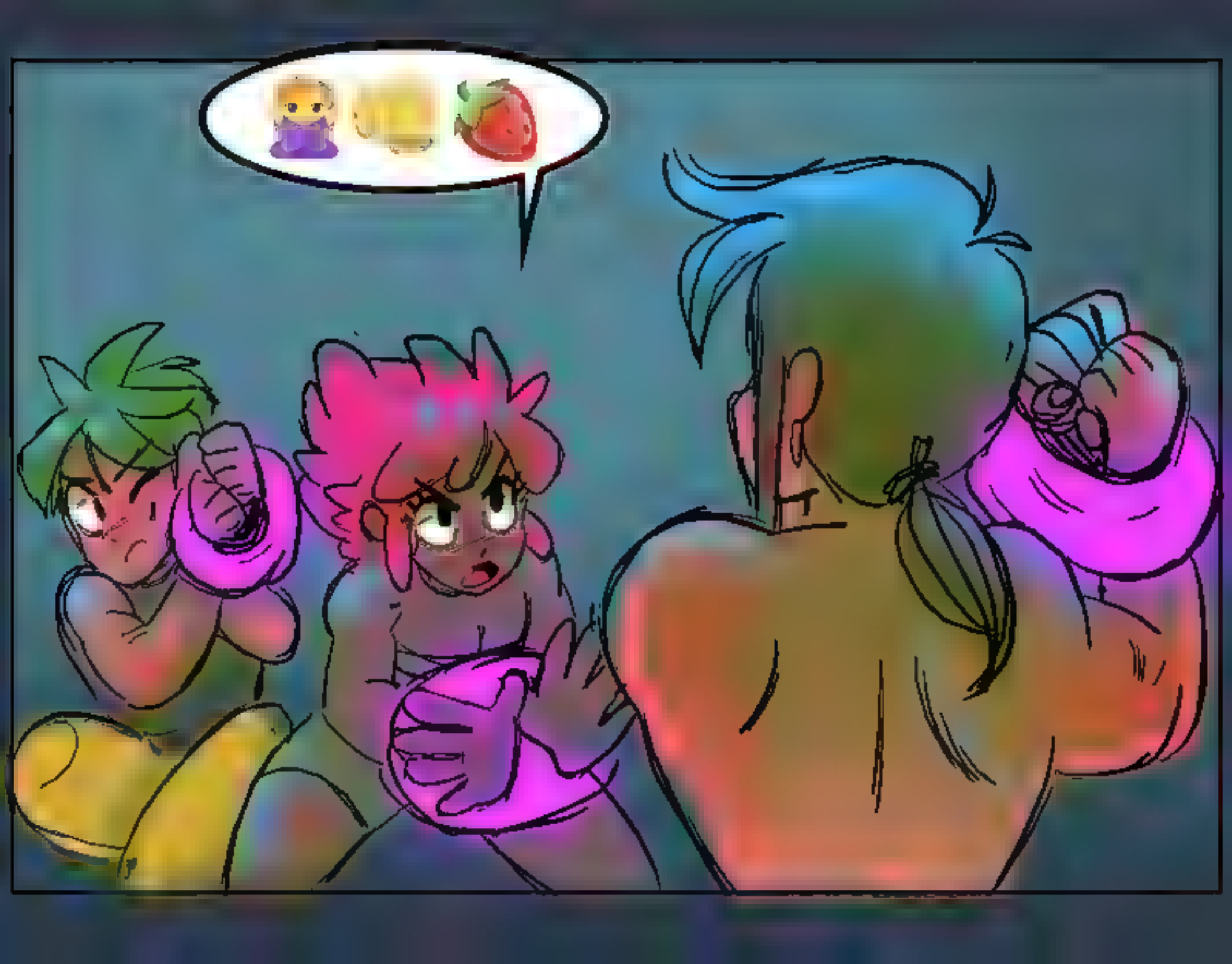


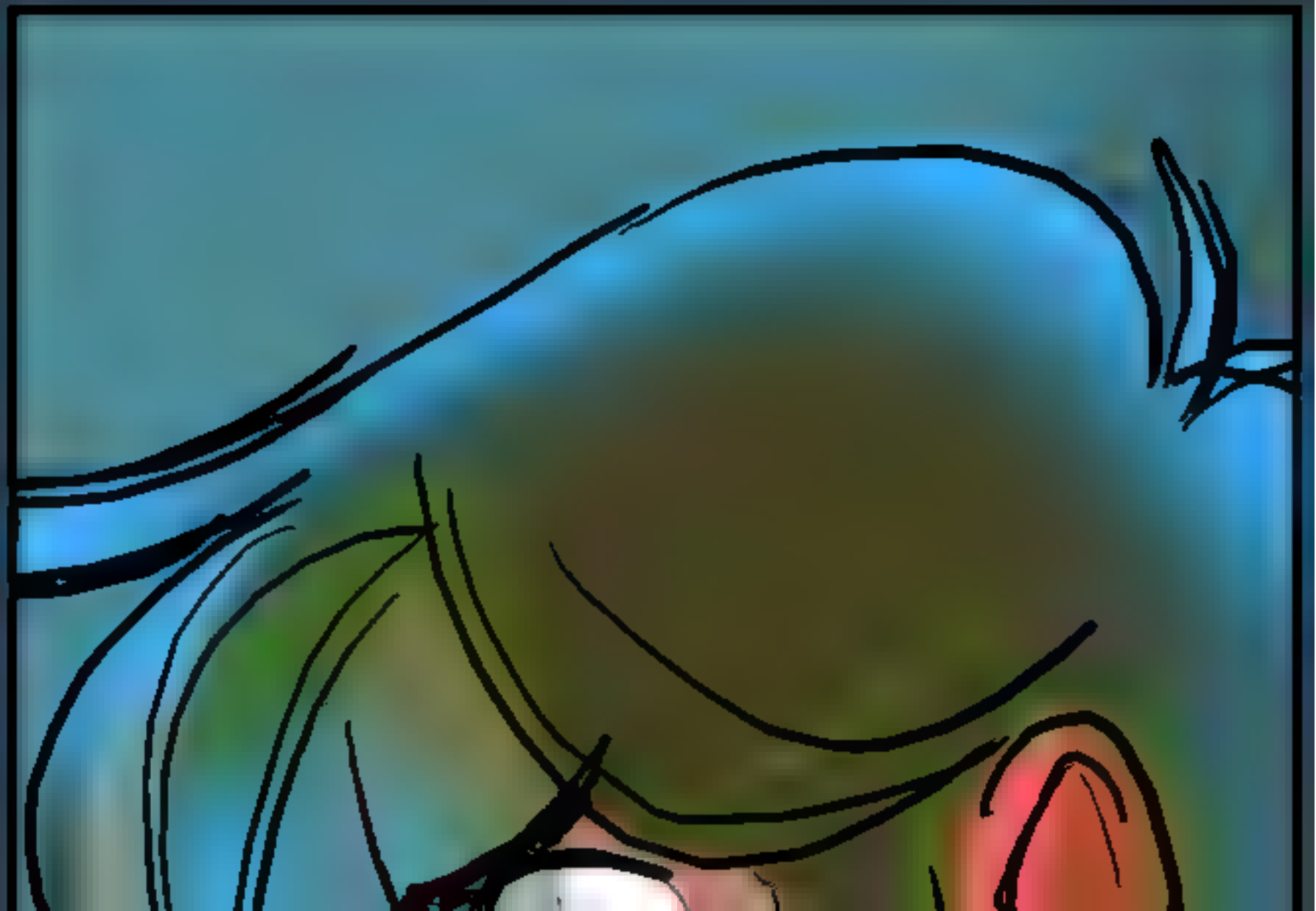

I'M SURPRISED YOU HAVEN'T FIGURED THIS OUT ON YOUR OWN:
IT DIDN'T DISAPPEAR, YOU STORED IT.
JUST CONCENTRATE AND PULL IT OUT!
"STORED IT"?


YOU THINK I JUST PUT IT IN AN *INVISIBLE INVENTORY* OR SOMETHING?
ARE YOU *CRAZY!?*

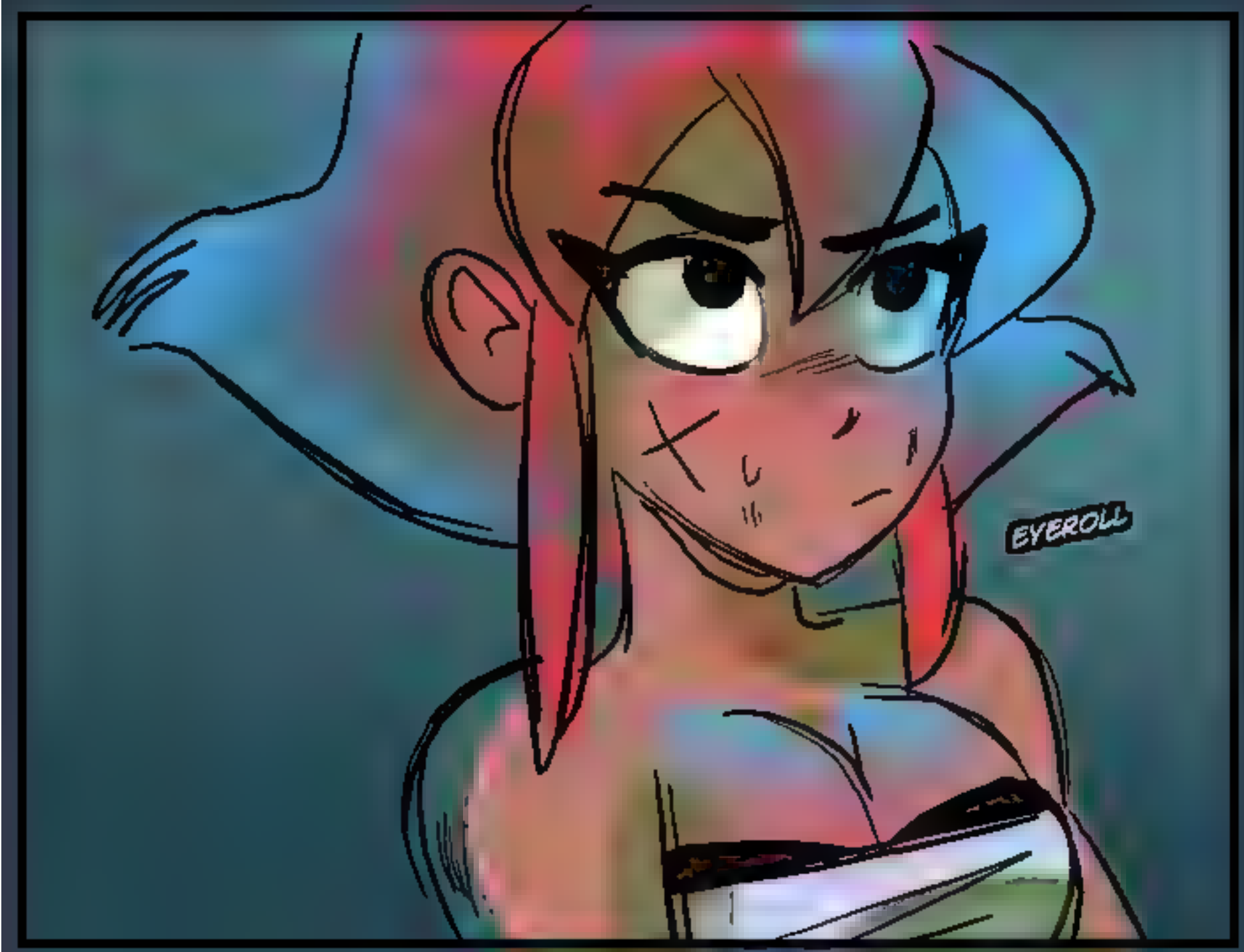
HEY, IF
YOU NEED SOME

HELP, I CAN ALWAYS HIT YOU AND IT MIGHT JUST FALL OUT ON ITS OWN.



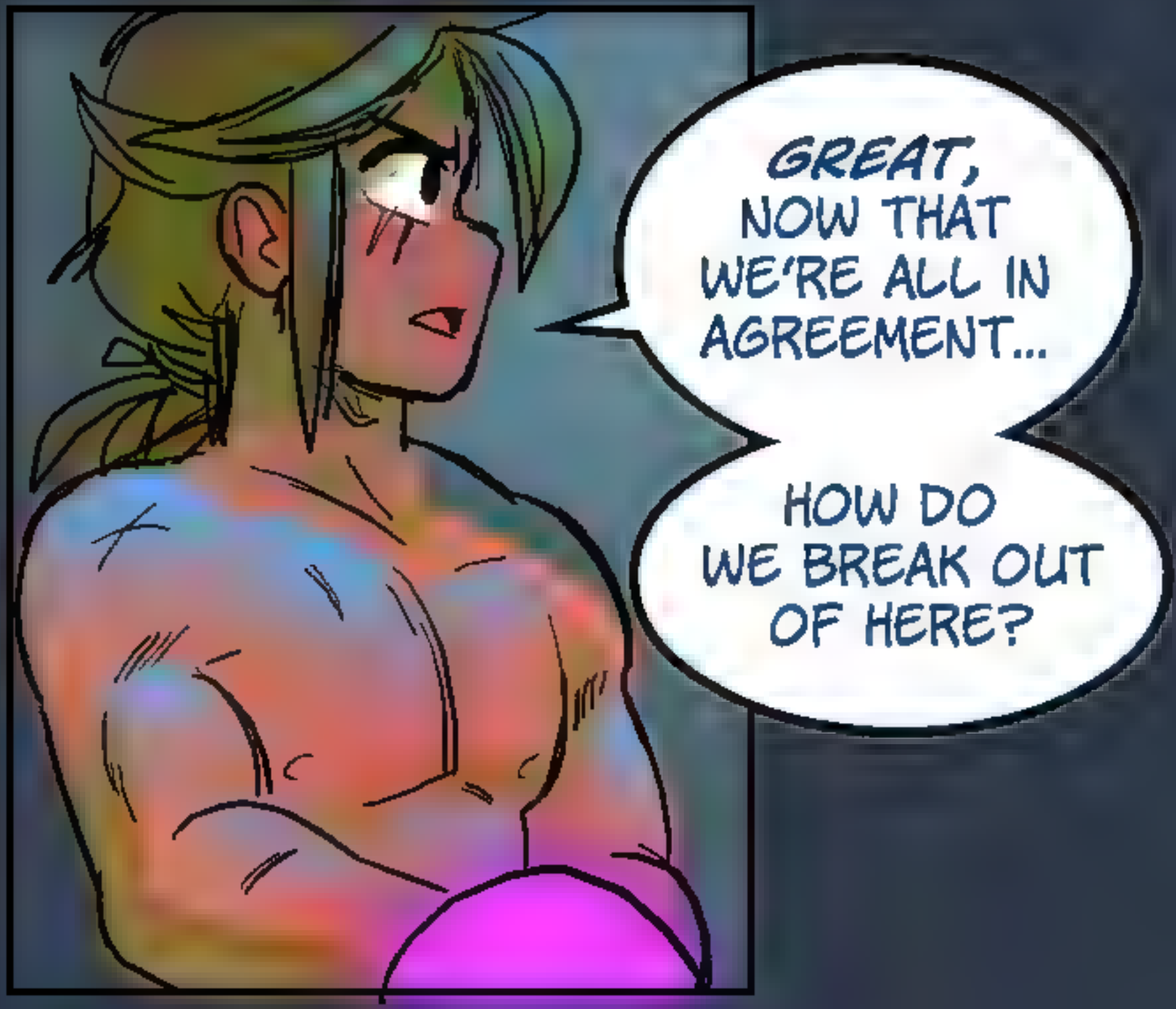


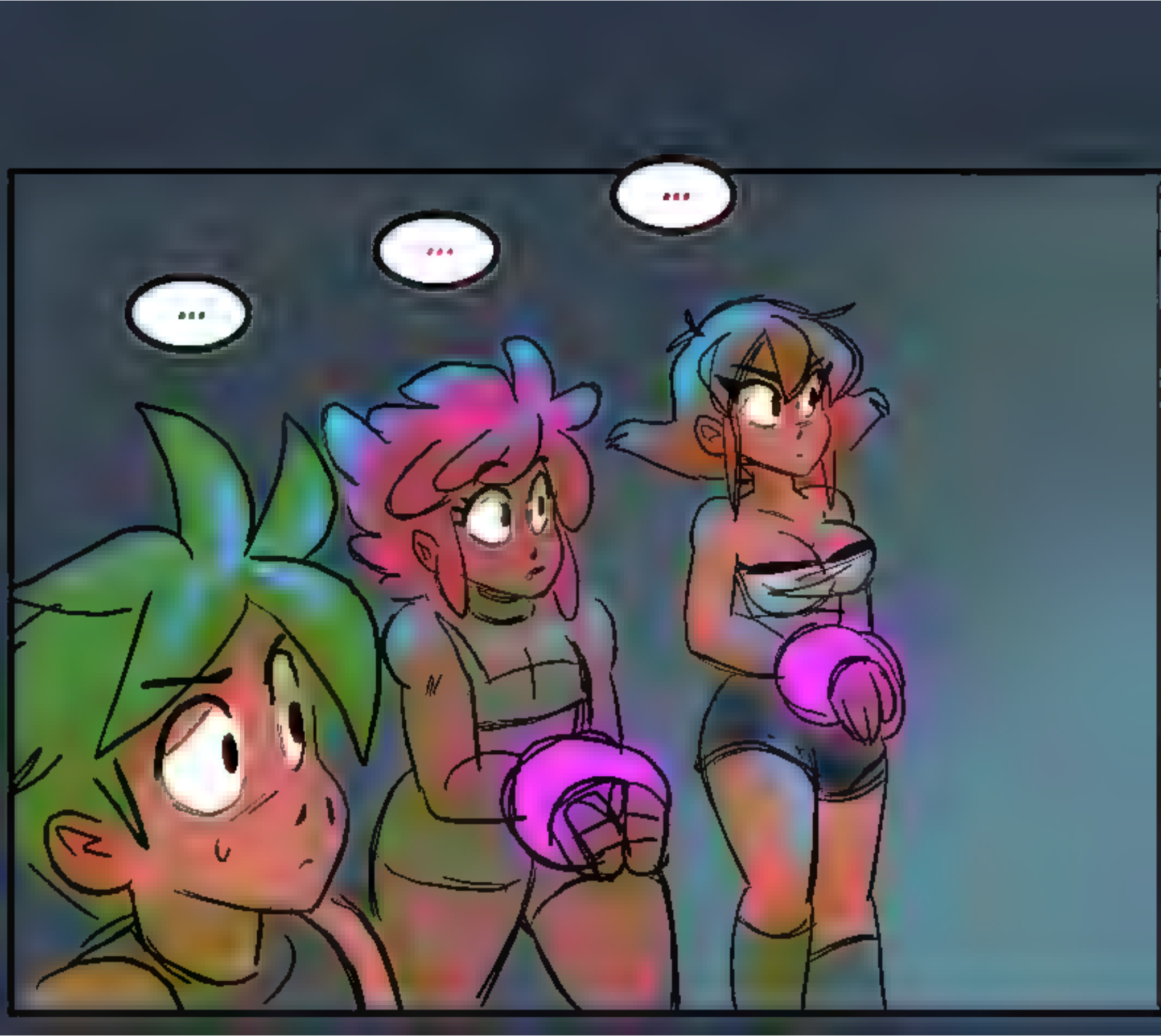
SORRY, I FORGOT YOU HAD A BODY-GUARD.

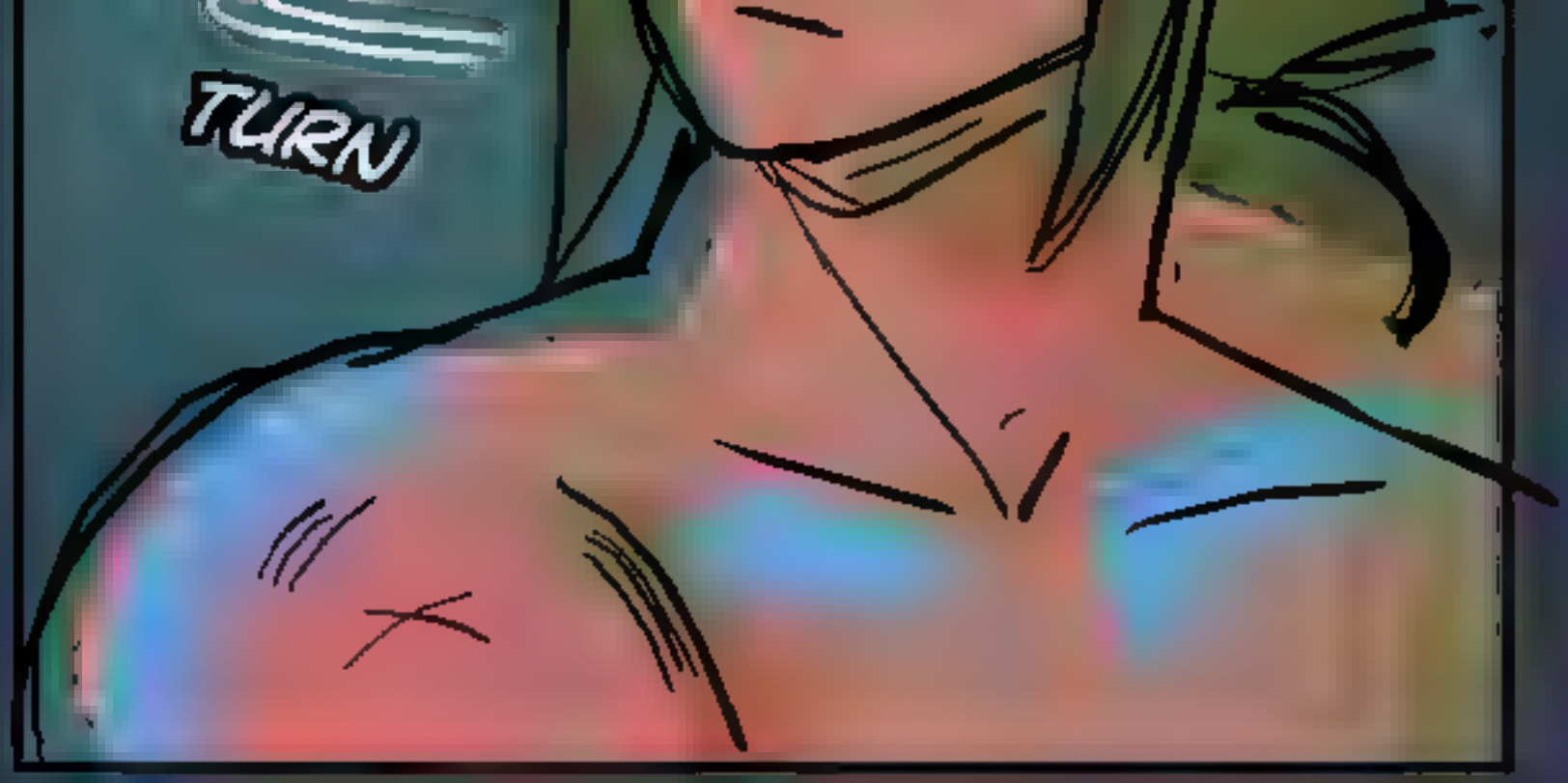

EYEROLL

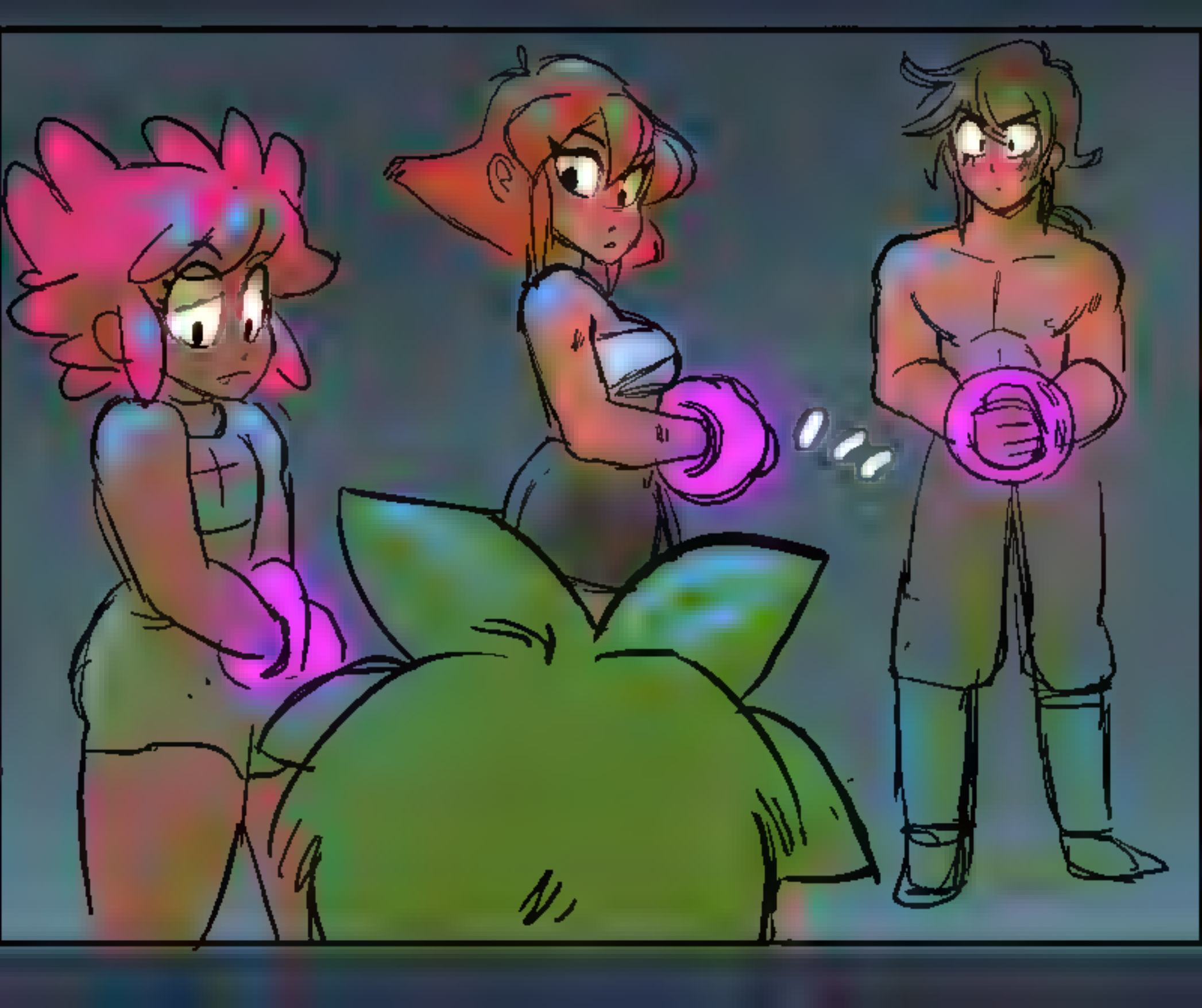
FINE, YOU KEEP IT FOR NOW. BUT FROM NOW ON, YOU STICK WITH ME, AND HAND IT OVER THE NEXT TIME IT APPEARS.

IF IT TAKES TOO LONG, THOUGH, WE'LL BE DOING IT MY WAY. FAIR WARNING.

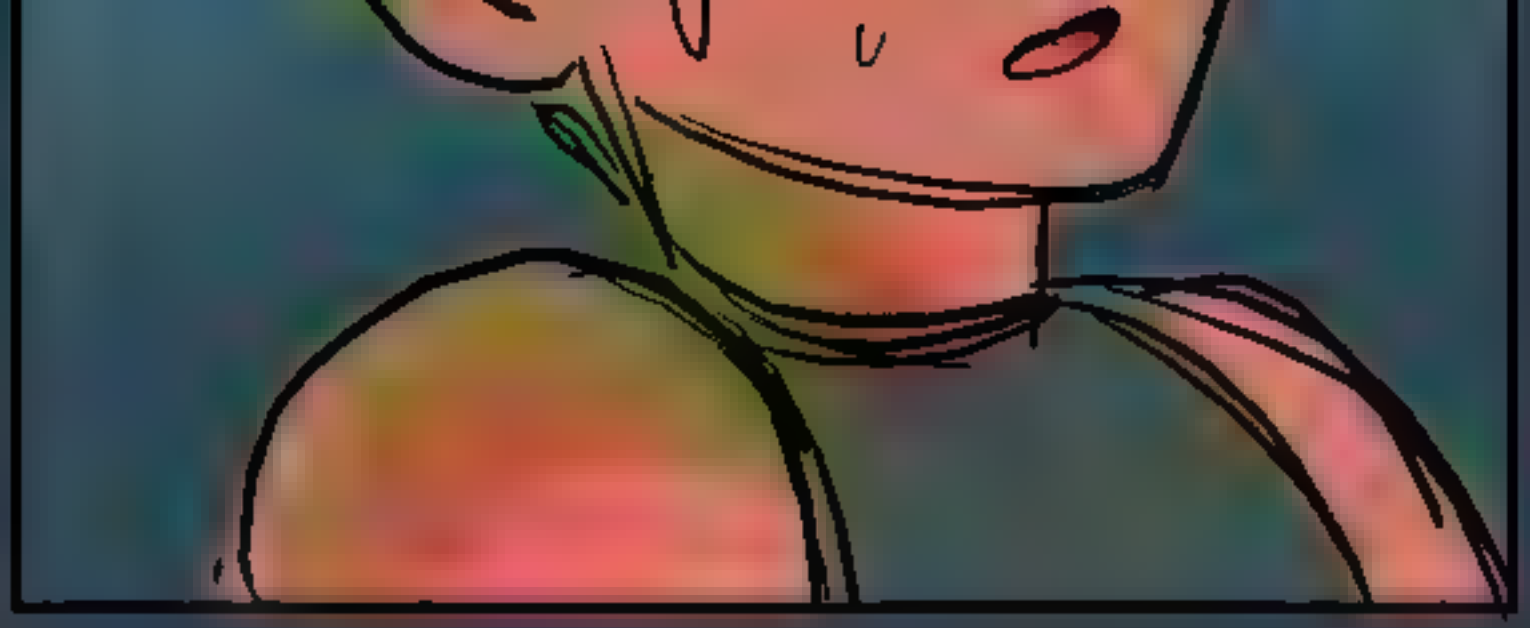

GREAT, NOW THAT WE'RE ALL IN AGREEMENT...
HOW DO WE BREAK OUT OF HERE?



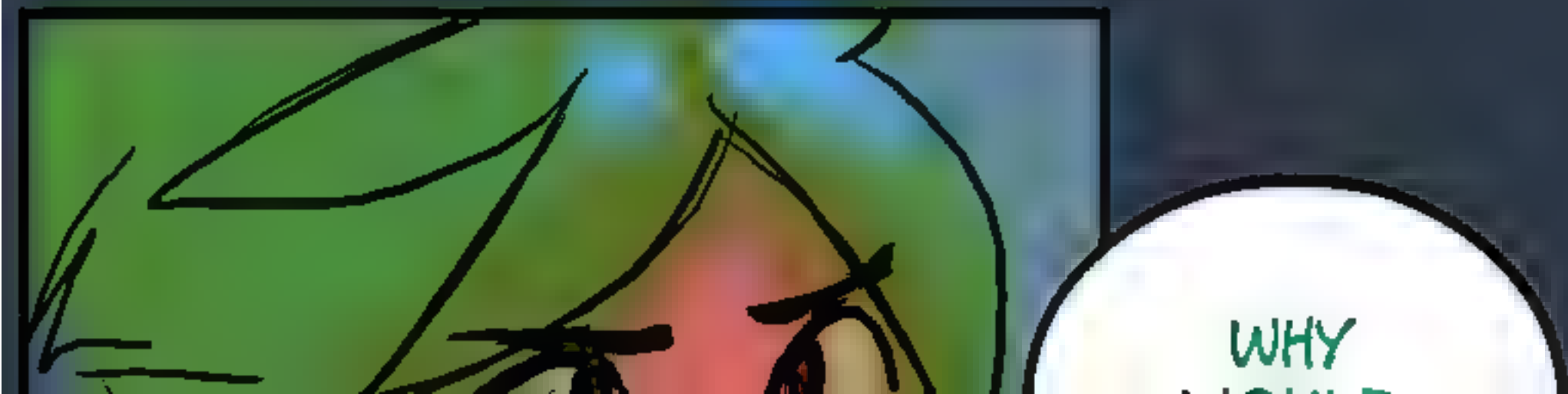

TURN



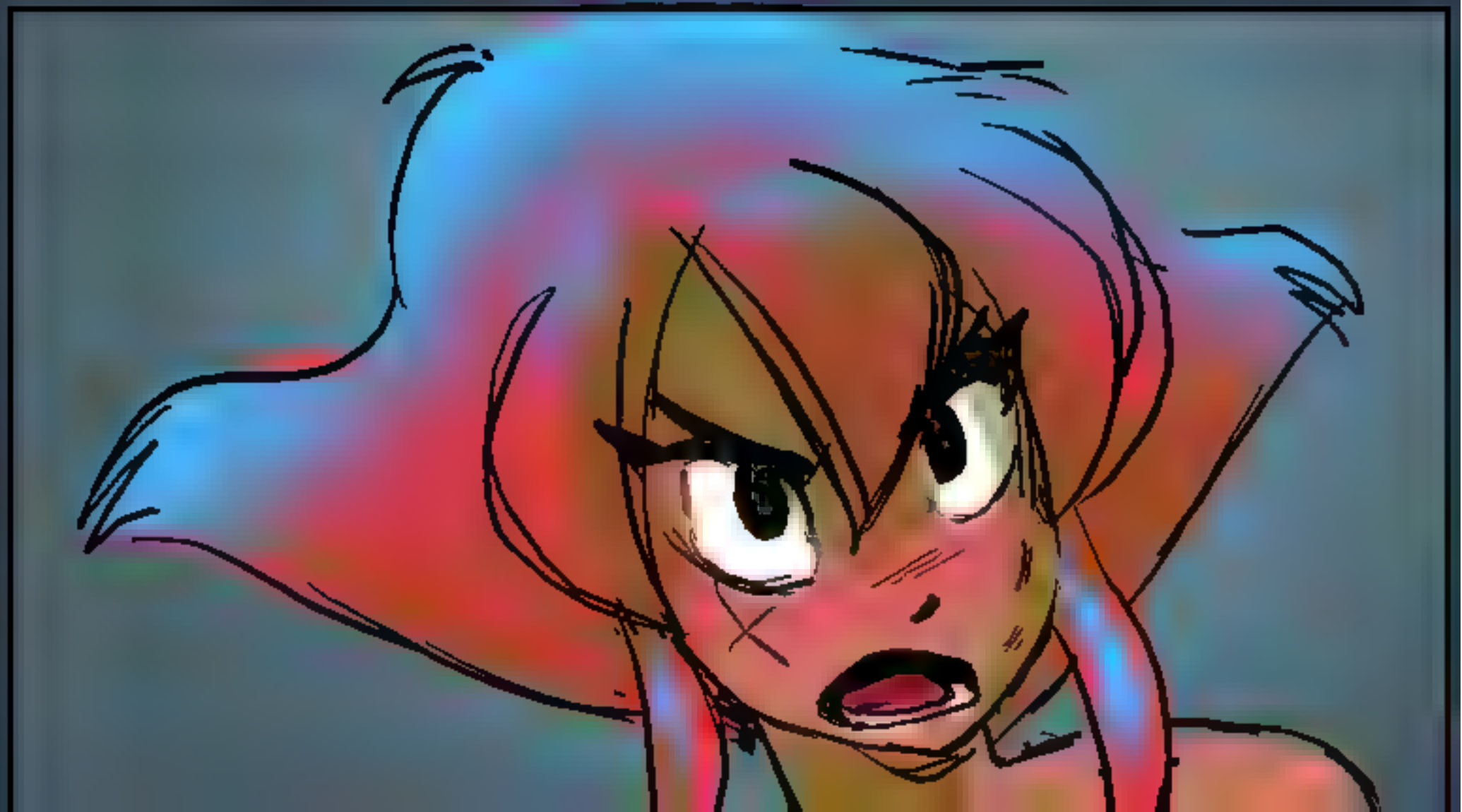
WHAT-
...
WHY ARE YOU ALL LOOKING AT ME?



HAVEN'T YOU COME UP WITH A PLAN YET?

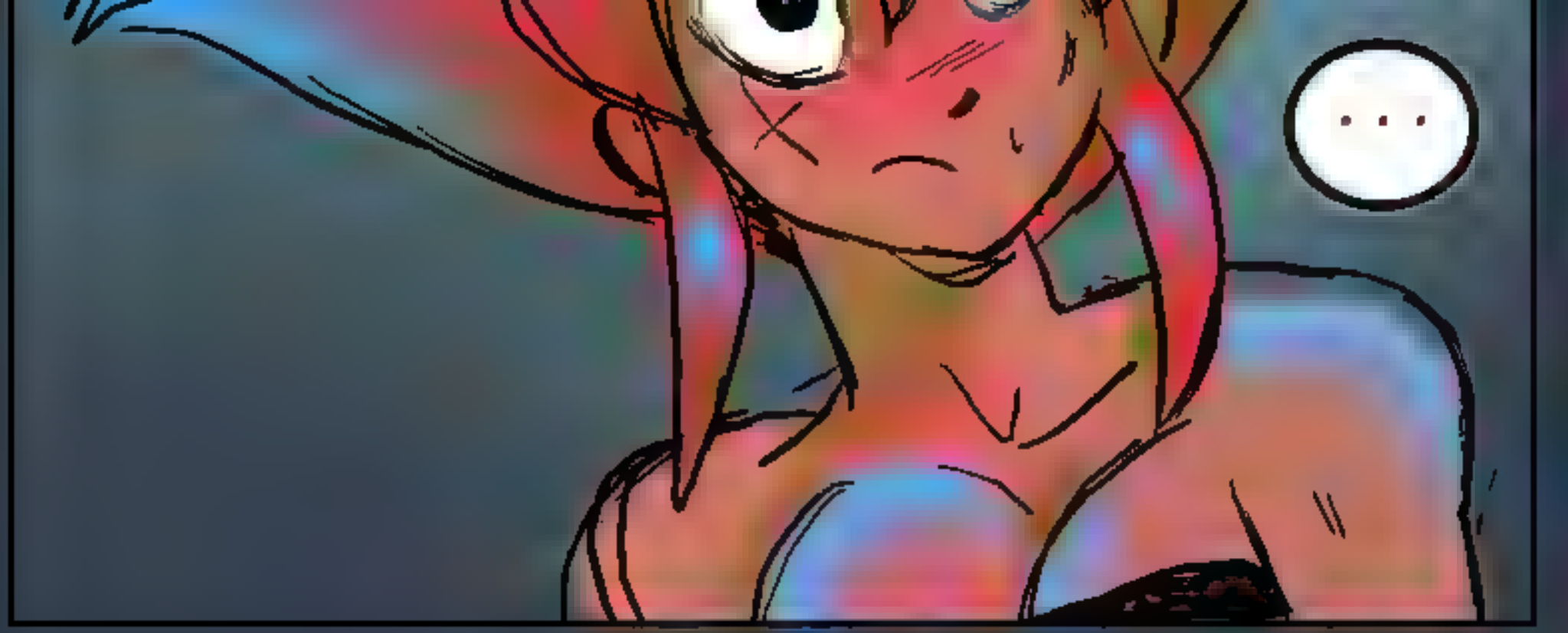

WHY

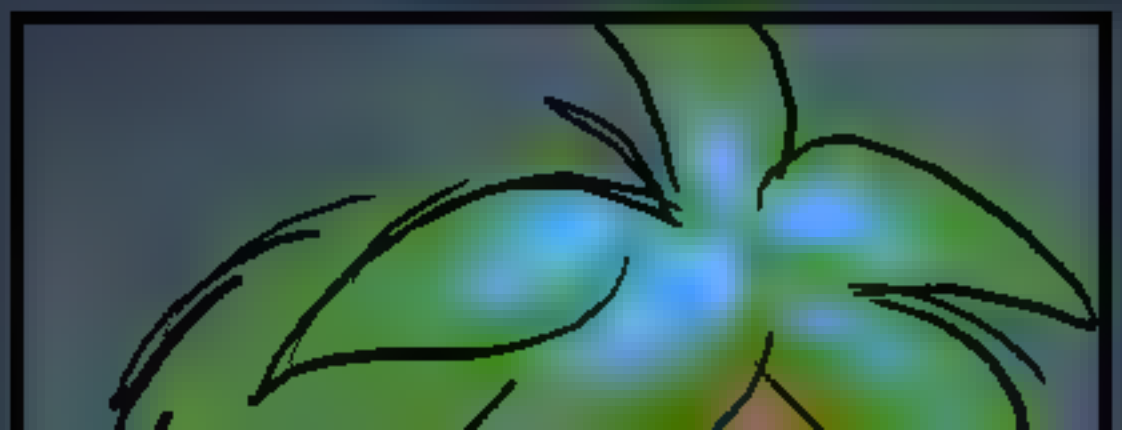
WOULD
I--

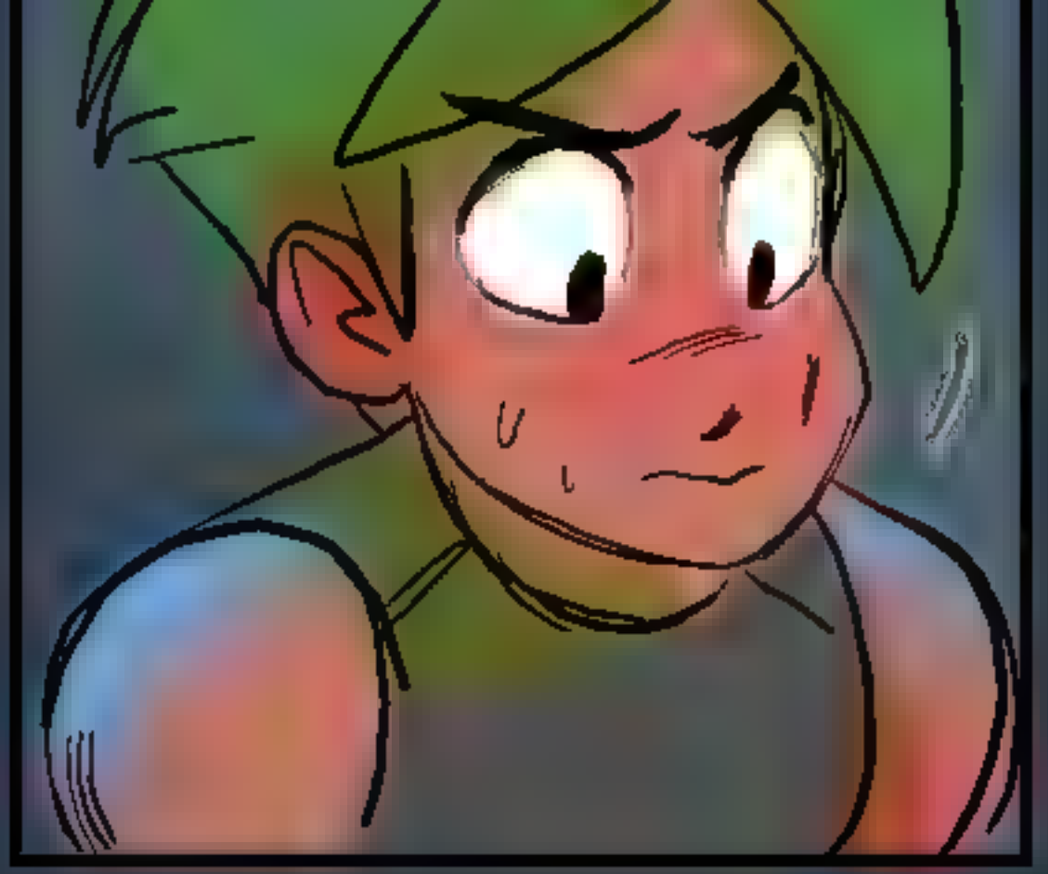


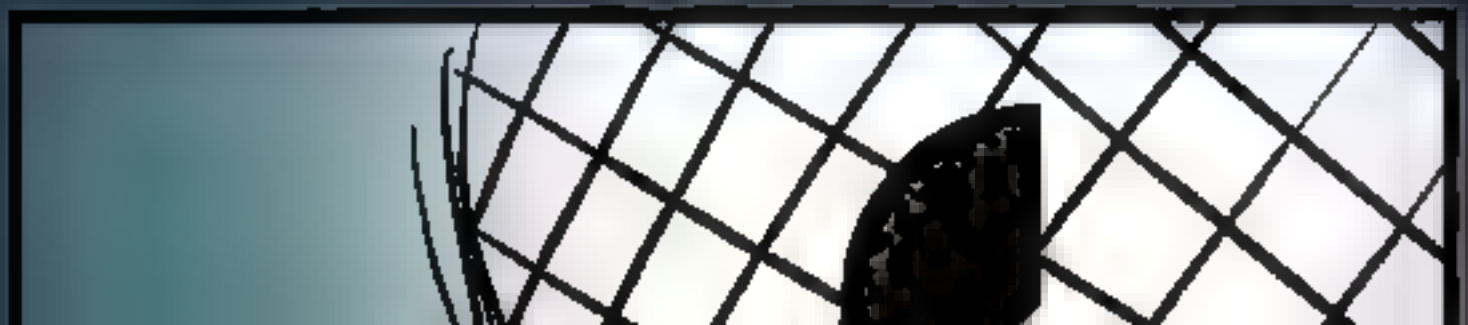
TWAS *HIS* FAULT WE WERE CAPTURED IN THE FIRST PLACE. WHAT MAKES YE THINK HE HAS A PLAN?

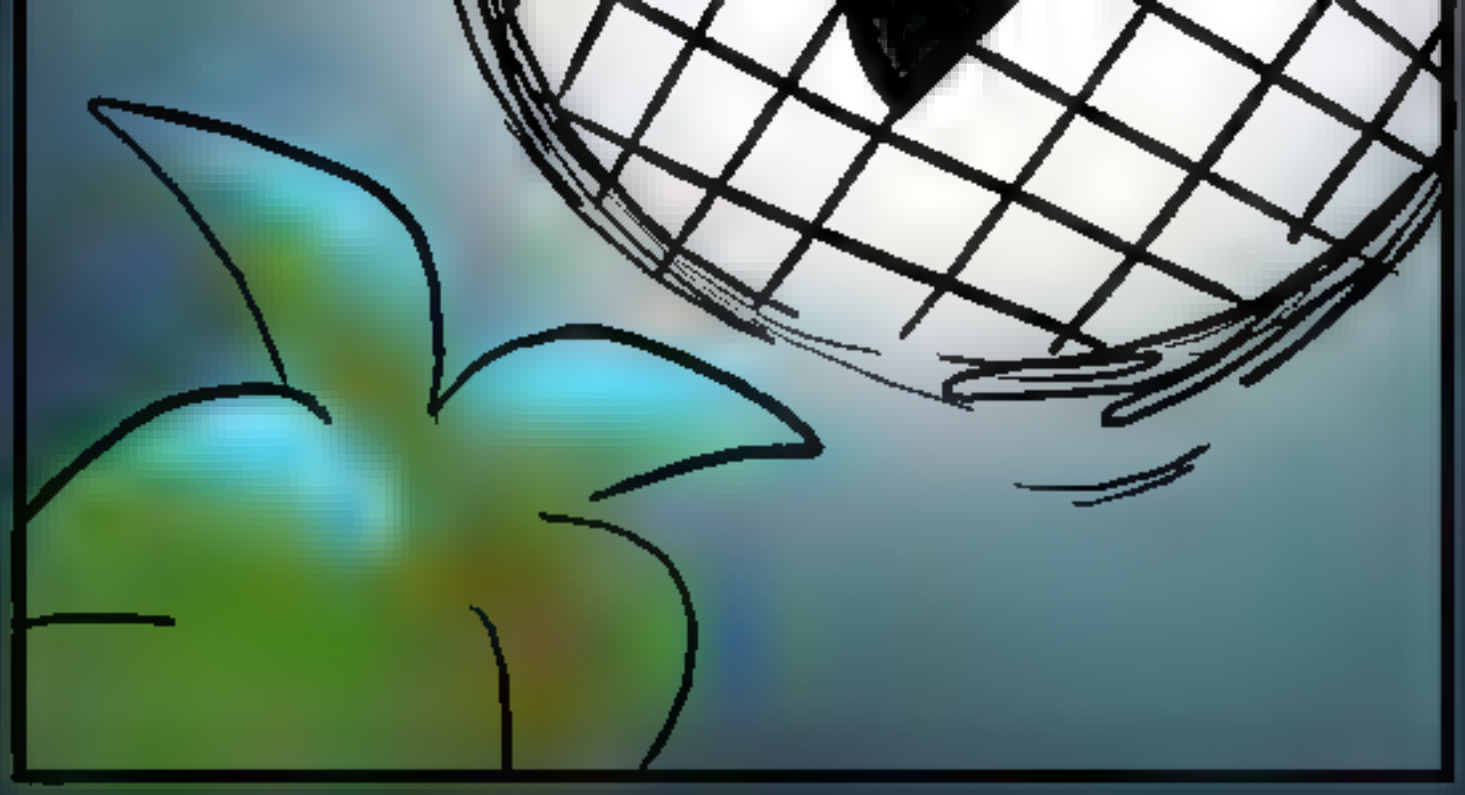
LET'S FIND OUT.

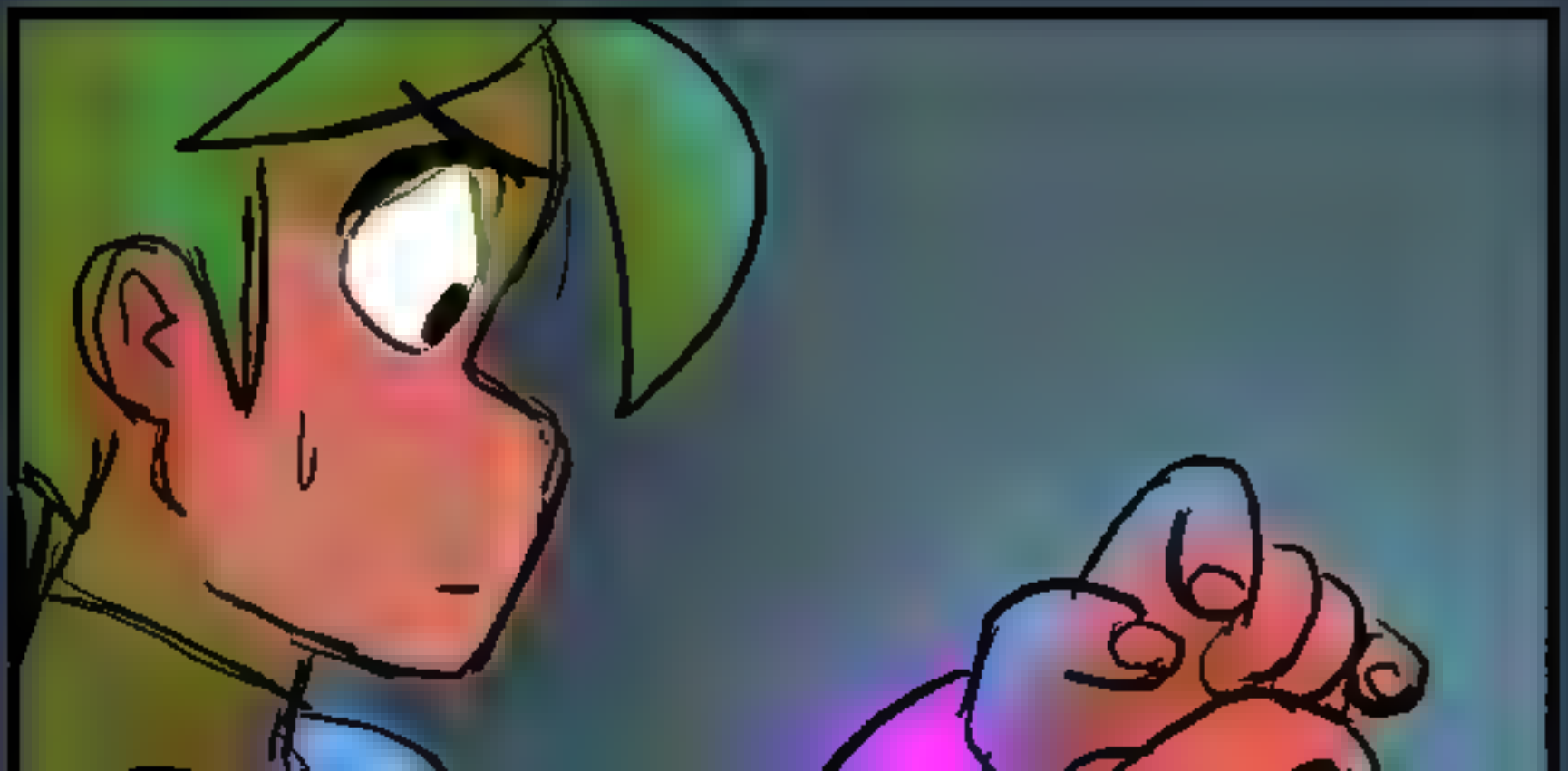




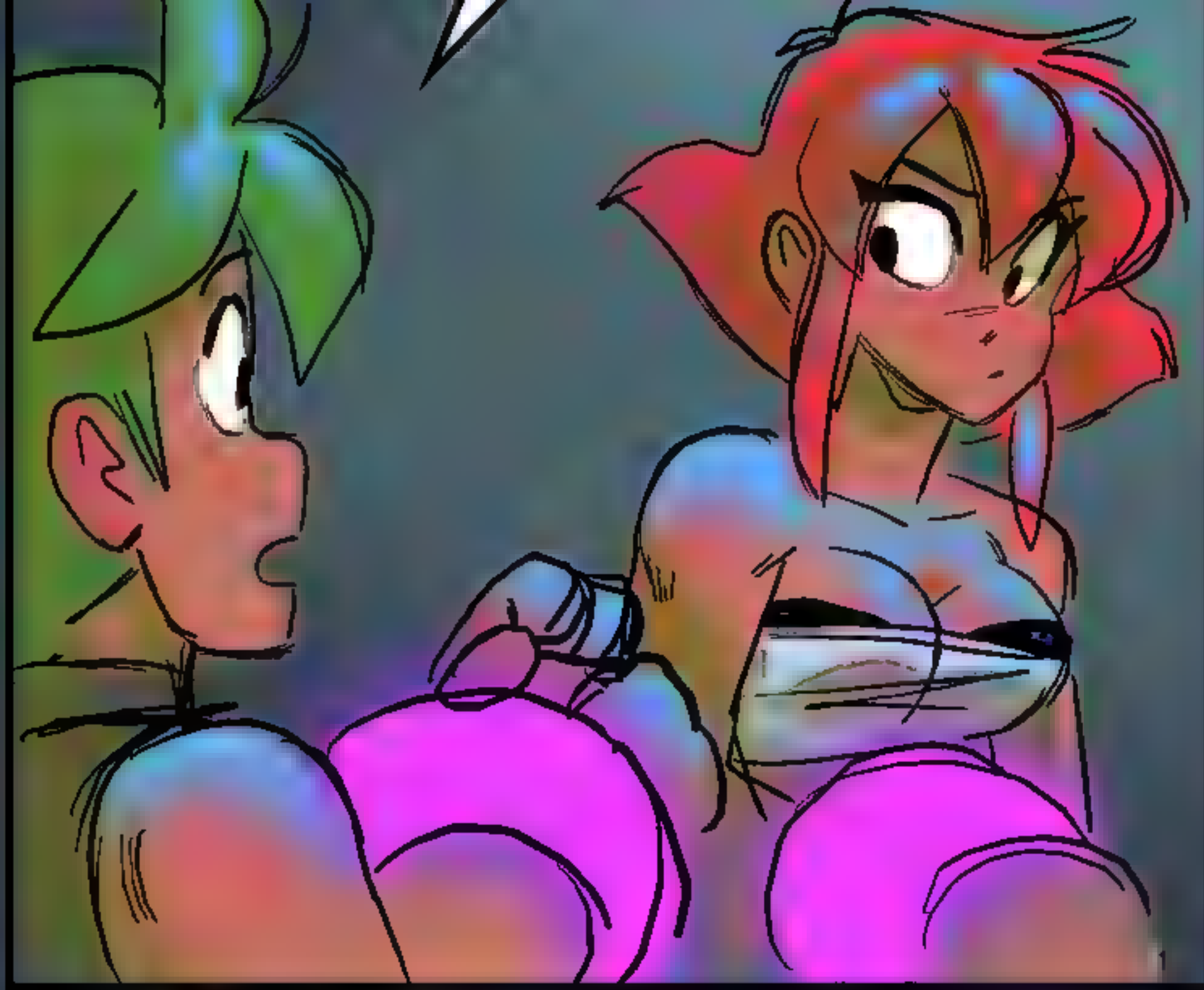




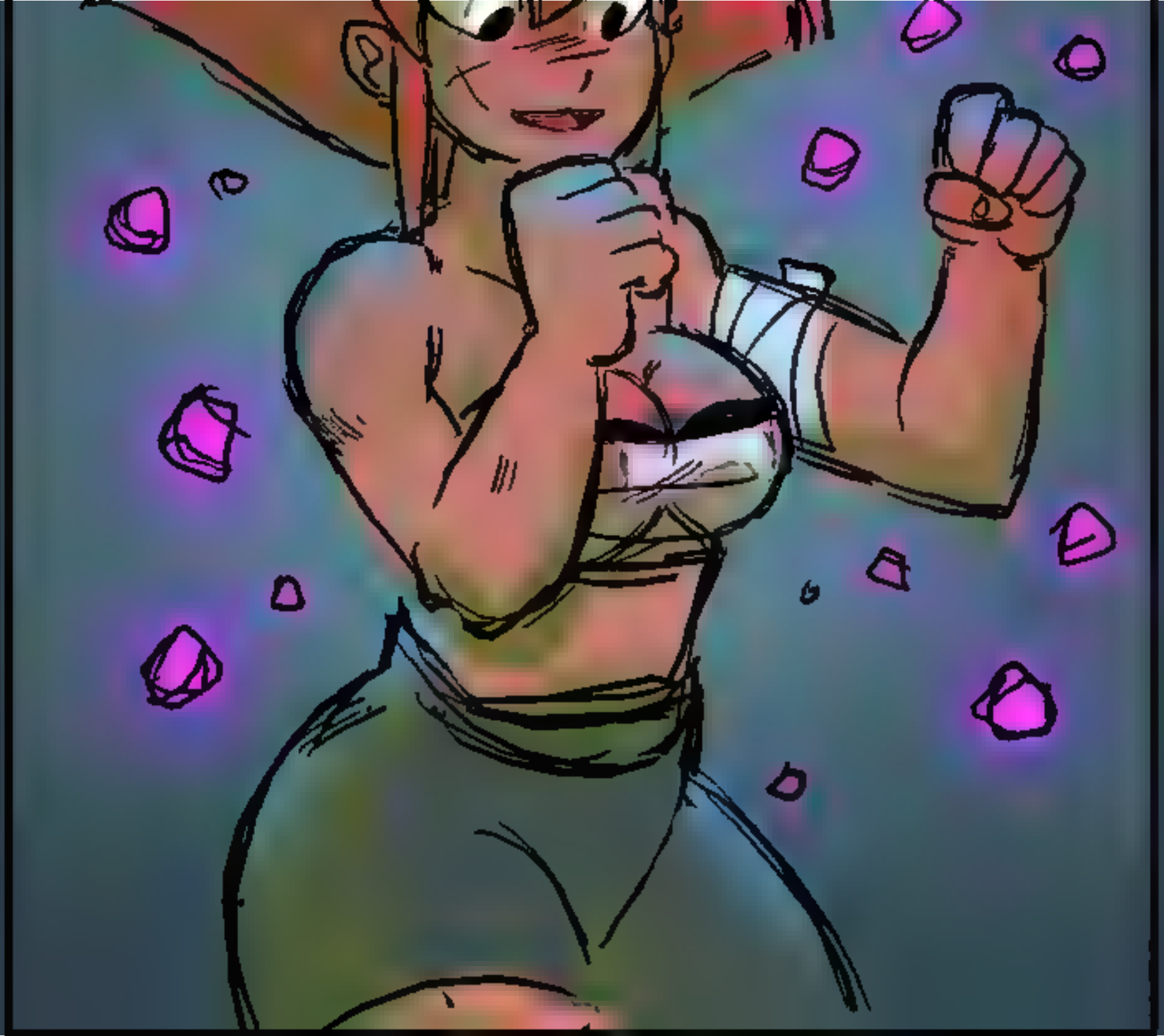


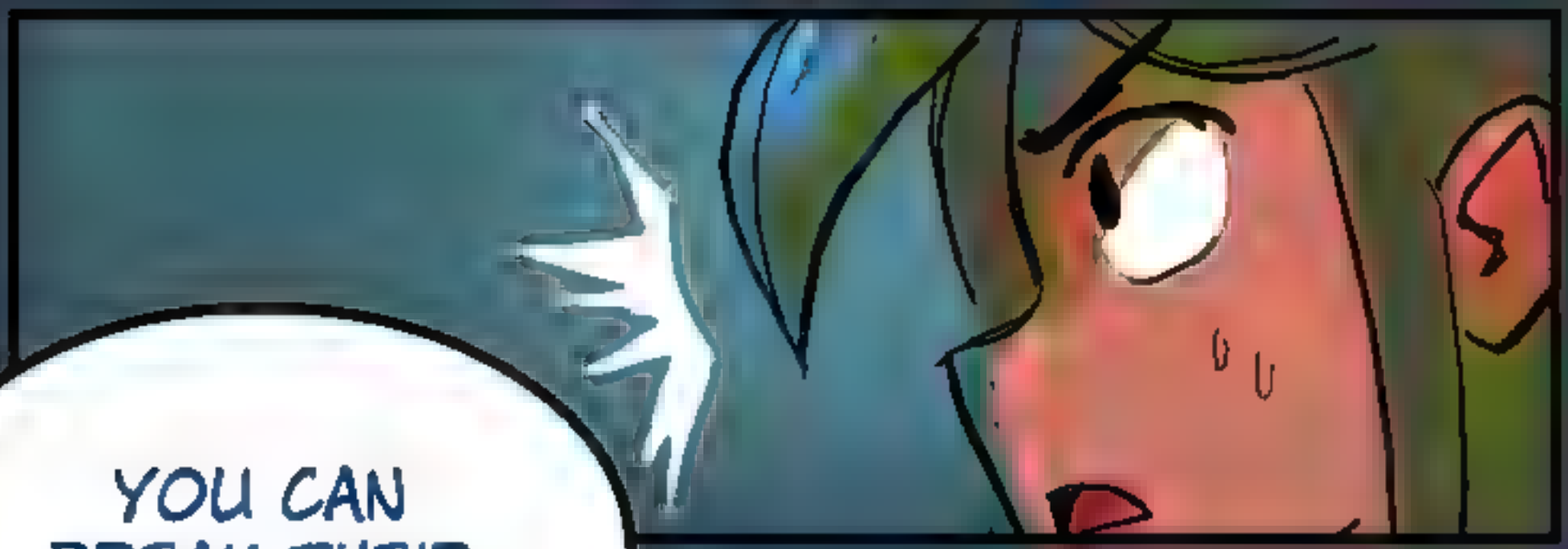


TORI,
YOU CAN BREAK
THESE RESTRAINTS,
CAN'T YOU?



OBVIOUSLY.



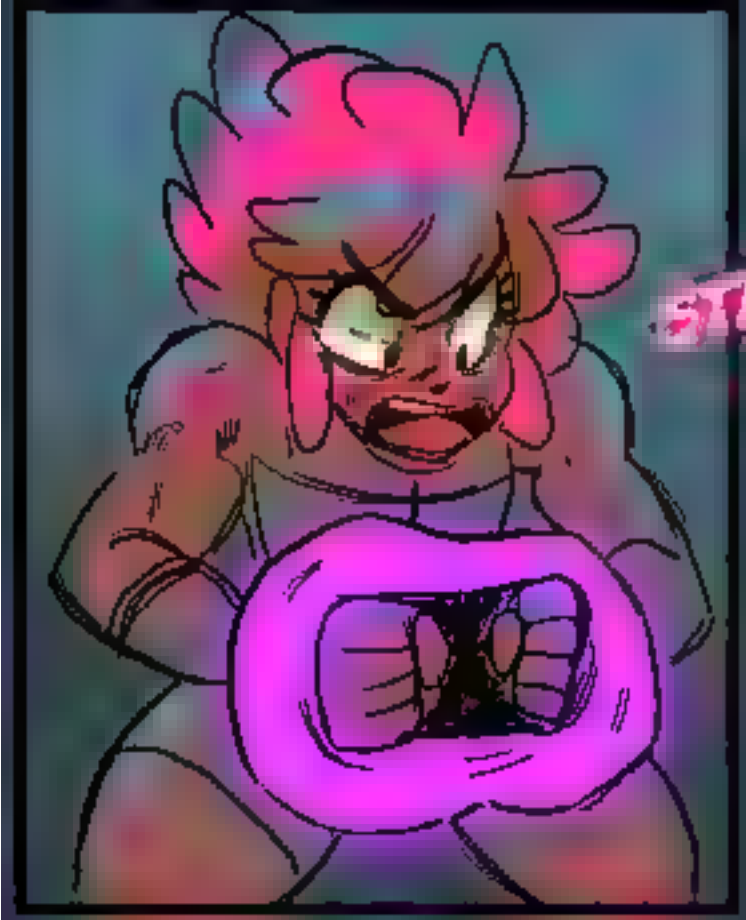


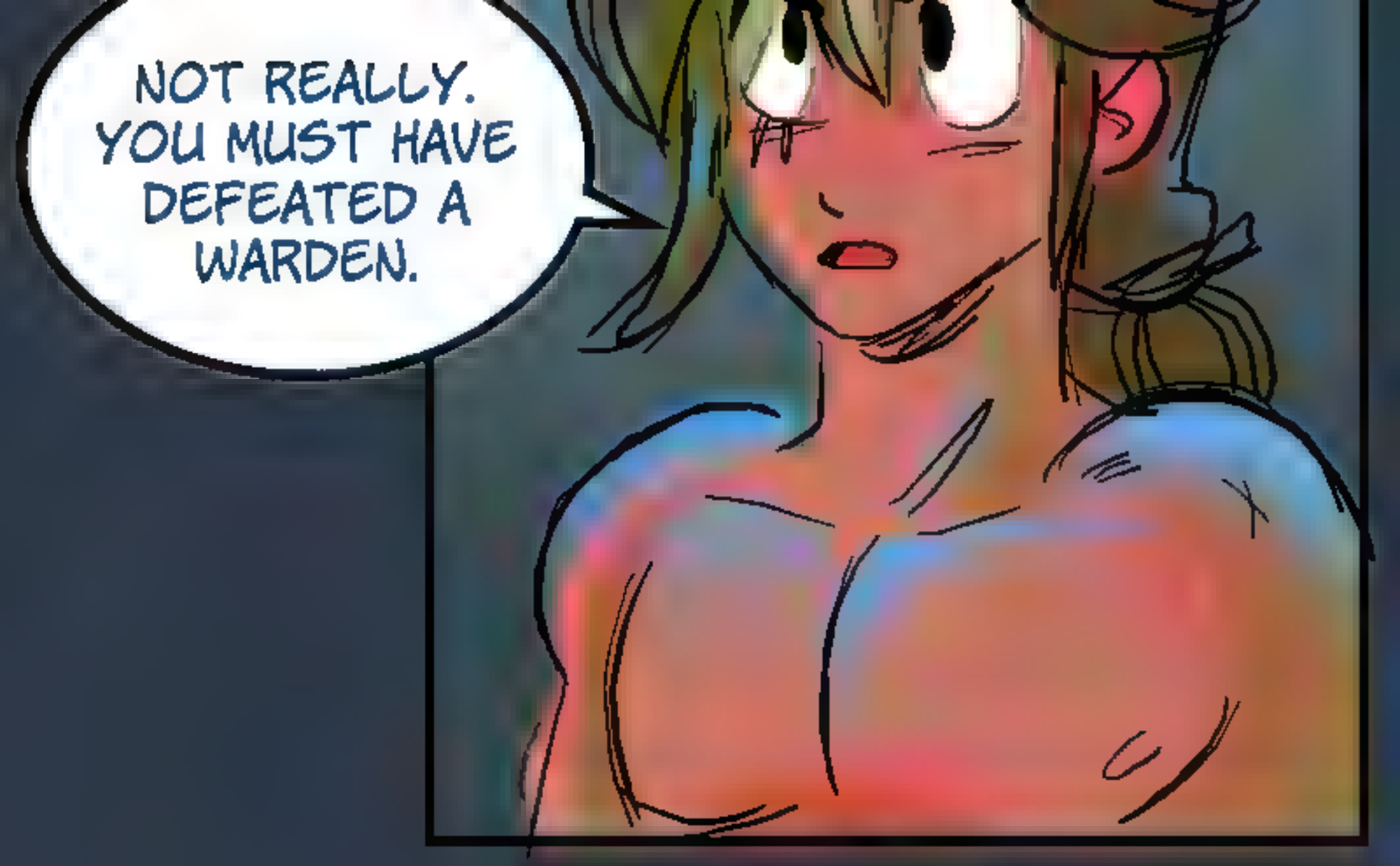
YOU CAN BREAK THEIR SPIT!

WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING BEFORE!?

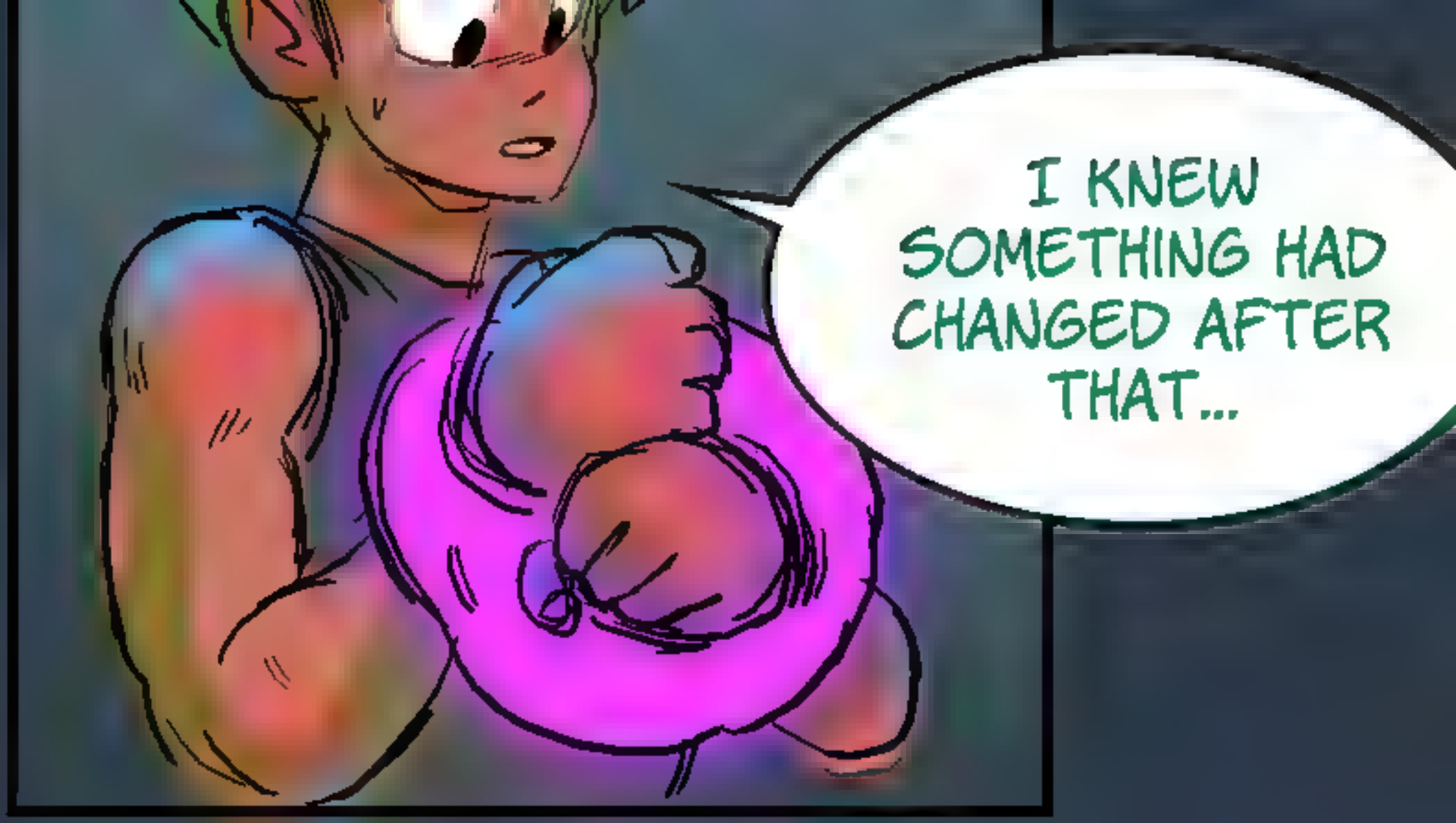
WHAT IS THE BIG DEAL?
SHAKE

SHRUG
IT JUST TAKES A LITTLE EFFORT.

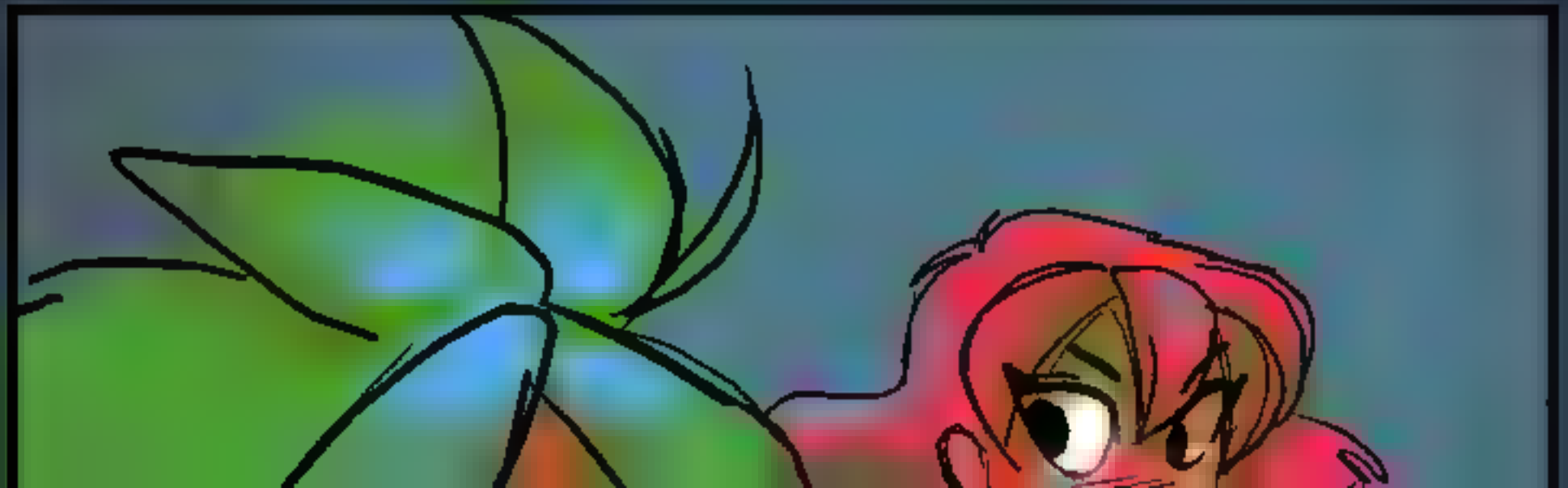

STRAIN


NOT REALLY. YOU MUST HAVE DEFEATED A WARDEN.

SHE KILLED THREE WHEN HE ATTACKED US.

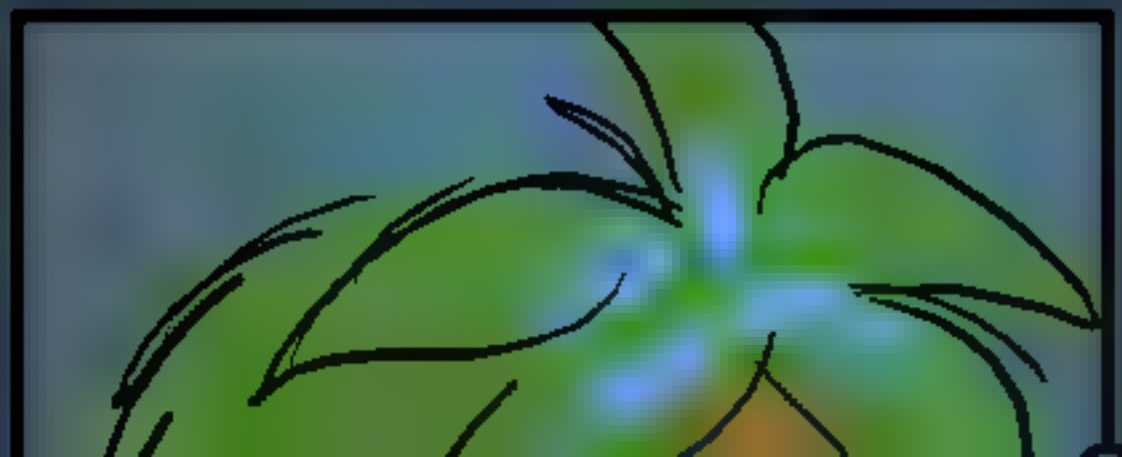

I KNEW SOMETHING HAD CHANGED AFTER THAT...

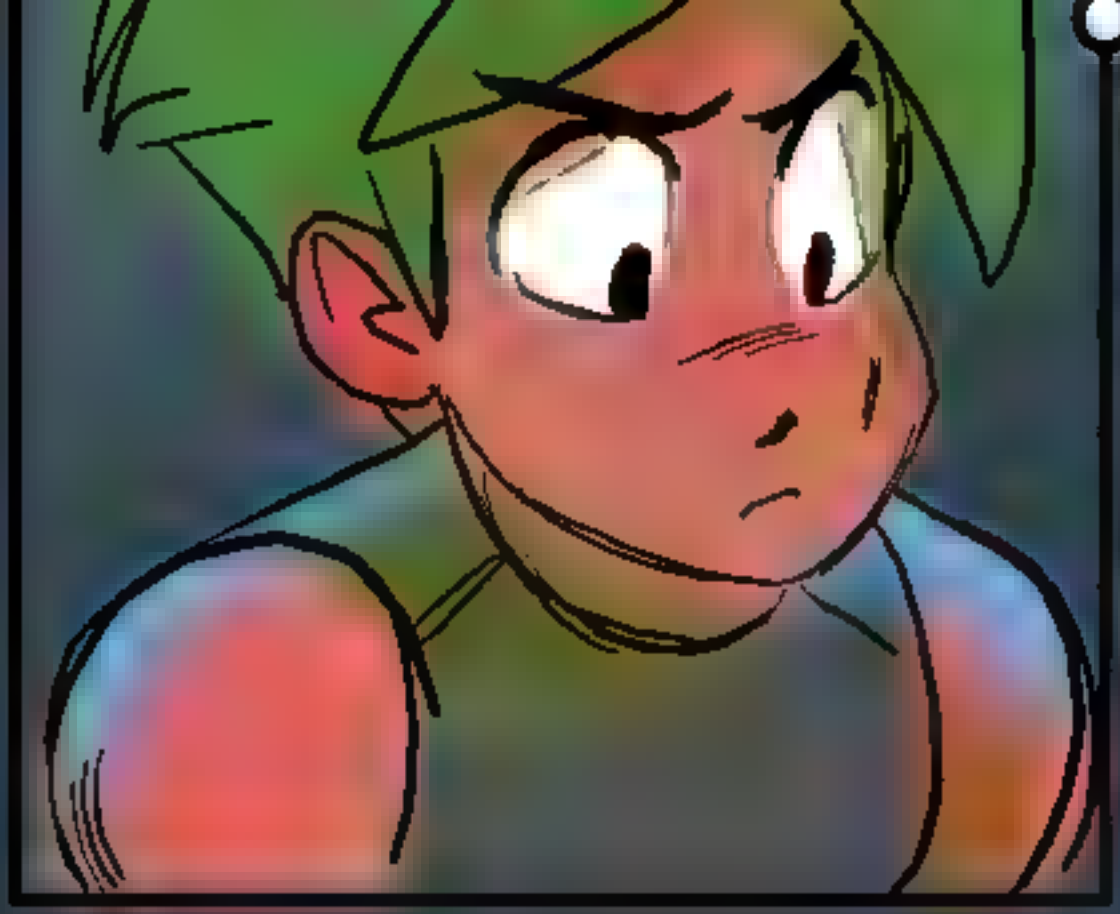
KK-GRRRR!



SO IT
IS SOMETHING
ONLY TORI CAN
DO!

RIGHT.
SHE ACQUIRED HIS ABILITY.
THAT WILL DEFINITELY COME IN HANDY HERE.





"ACQUIRED AN ABILITY" ?

THAT'S ONLY A THING IN VIDEO GAMES.

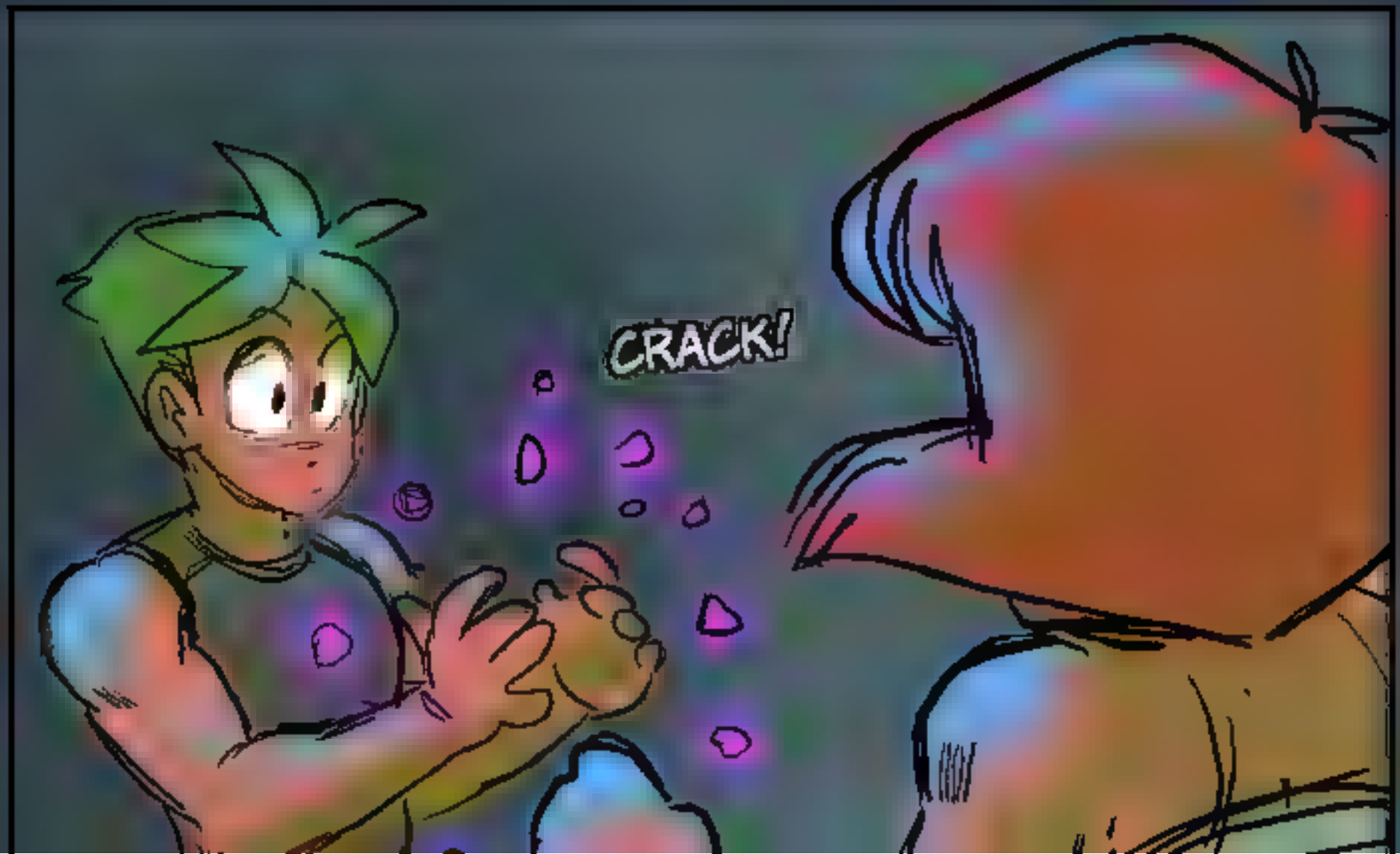
SO HOW ABOUT IT, RED? CAN YOU HELP US?

FINE.

BREAK!

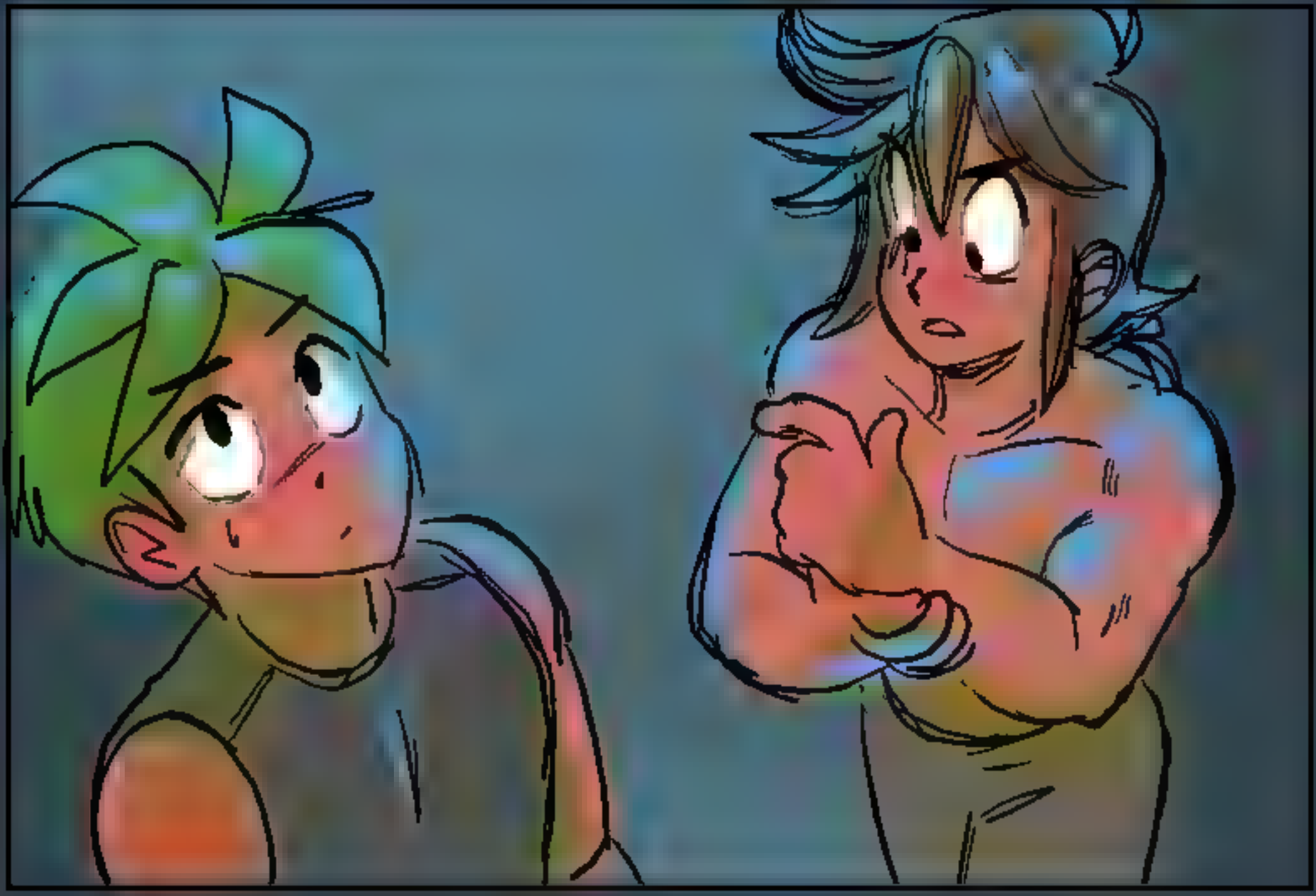
VIDEO GAME MECHANICS WOULD ACTUALLY EXPLAIN... A LOT OF WHAT'S HAPPENED SINCE WE GOT HERE.

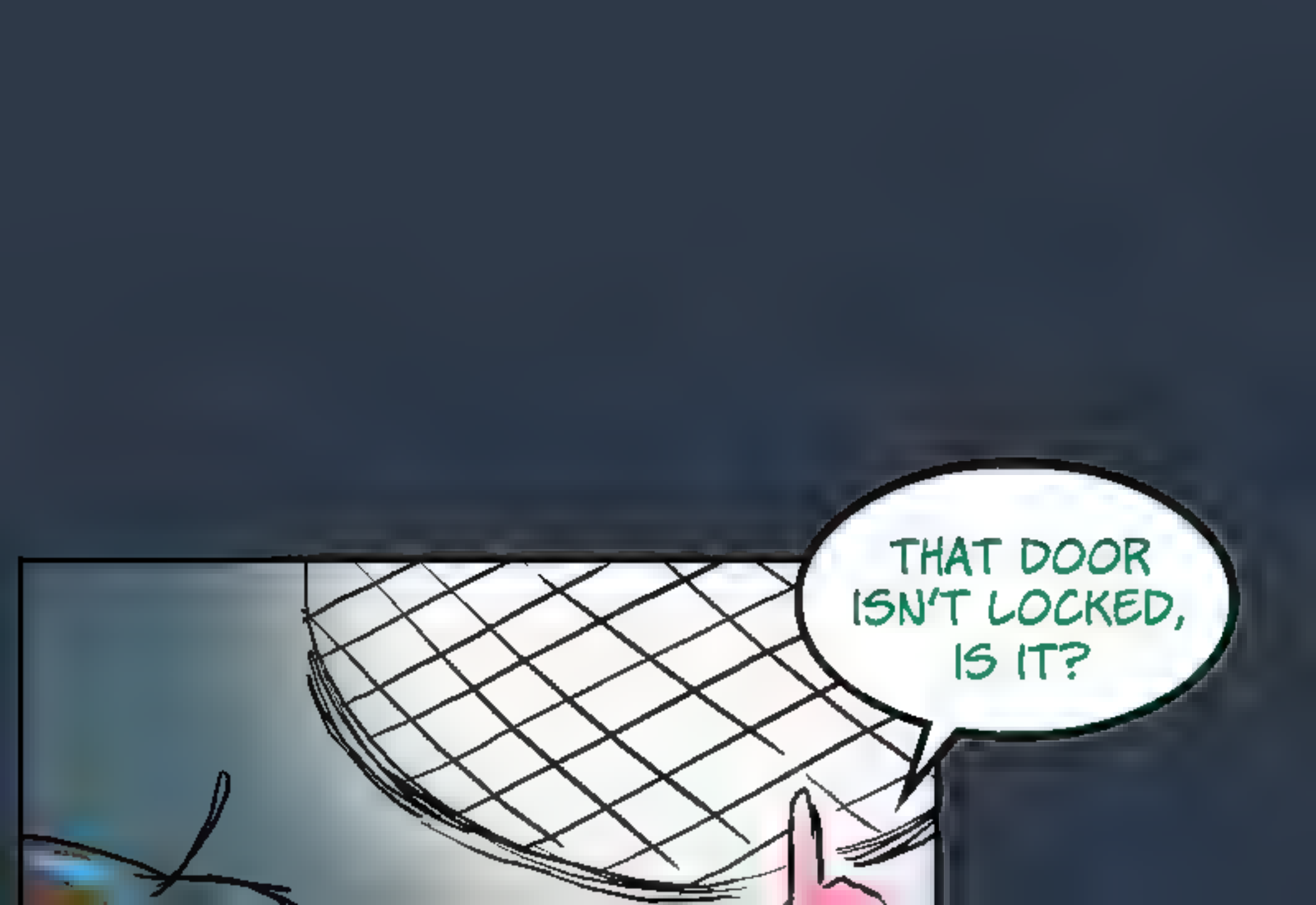
WHAT WOULD THAT EVEN MEAN? THAT WE'RE INSIDE A SIMULATION? THAT'S COMPLETELY ABSURD.
... RIGHT?

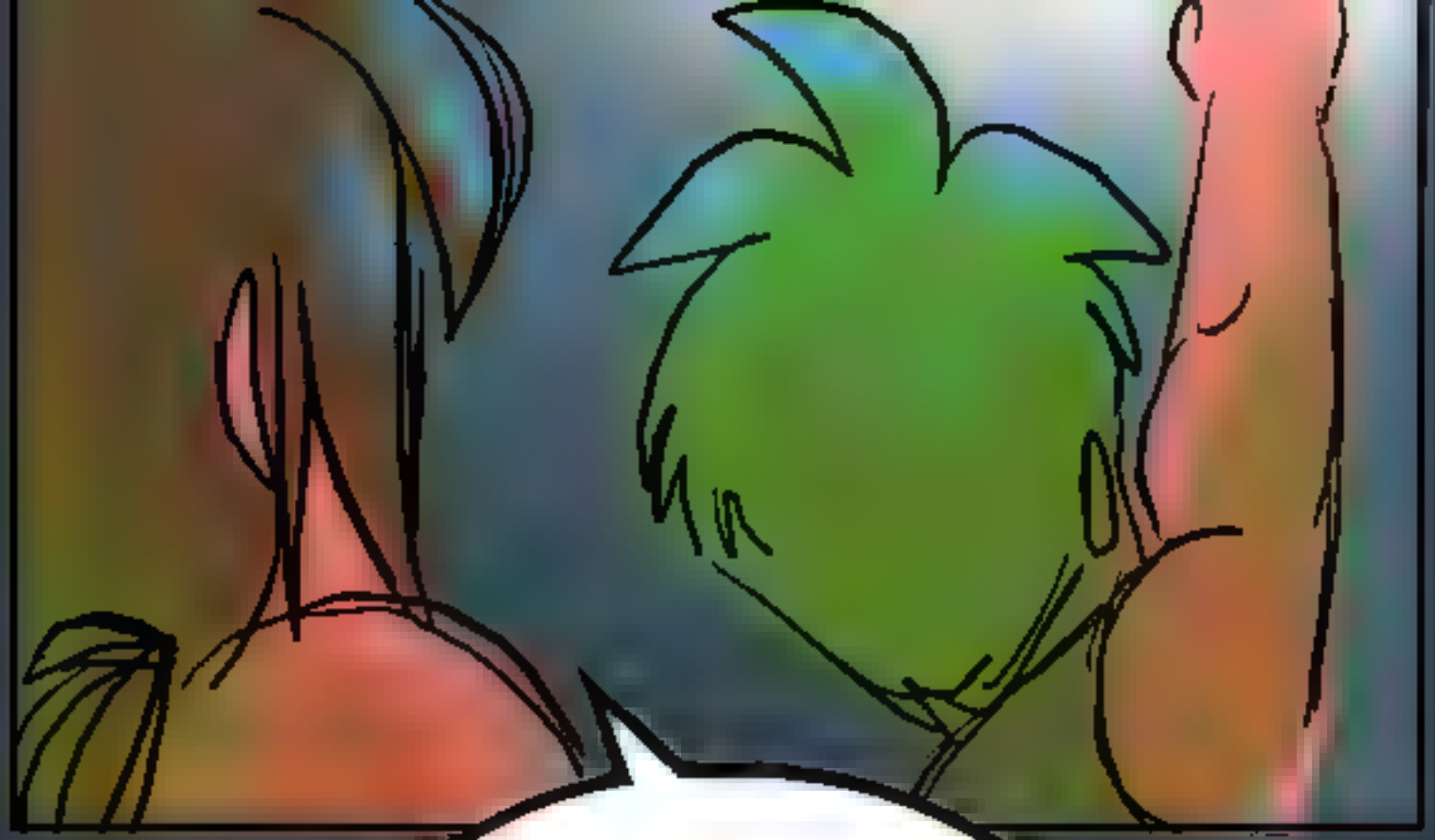

CRACK!

THIS IS WAY TOO FAR-FETCHED. I'LL JUST KEEP IT TO MYSELF FOR NOW...

THAT'S ONE PROBLEM SOLVED...
DON'T GET LAZY NOW. WHAT'S NEXT?

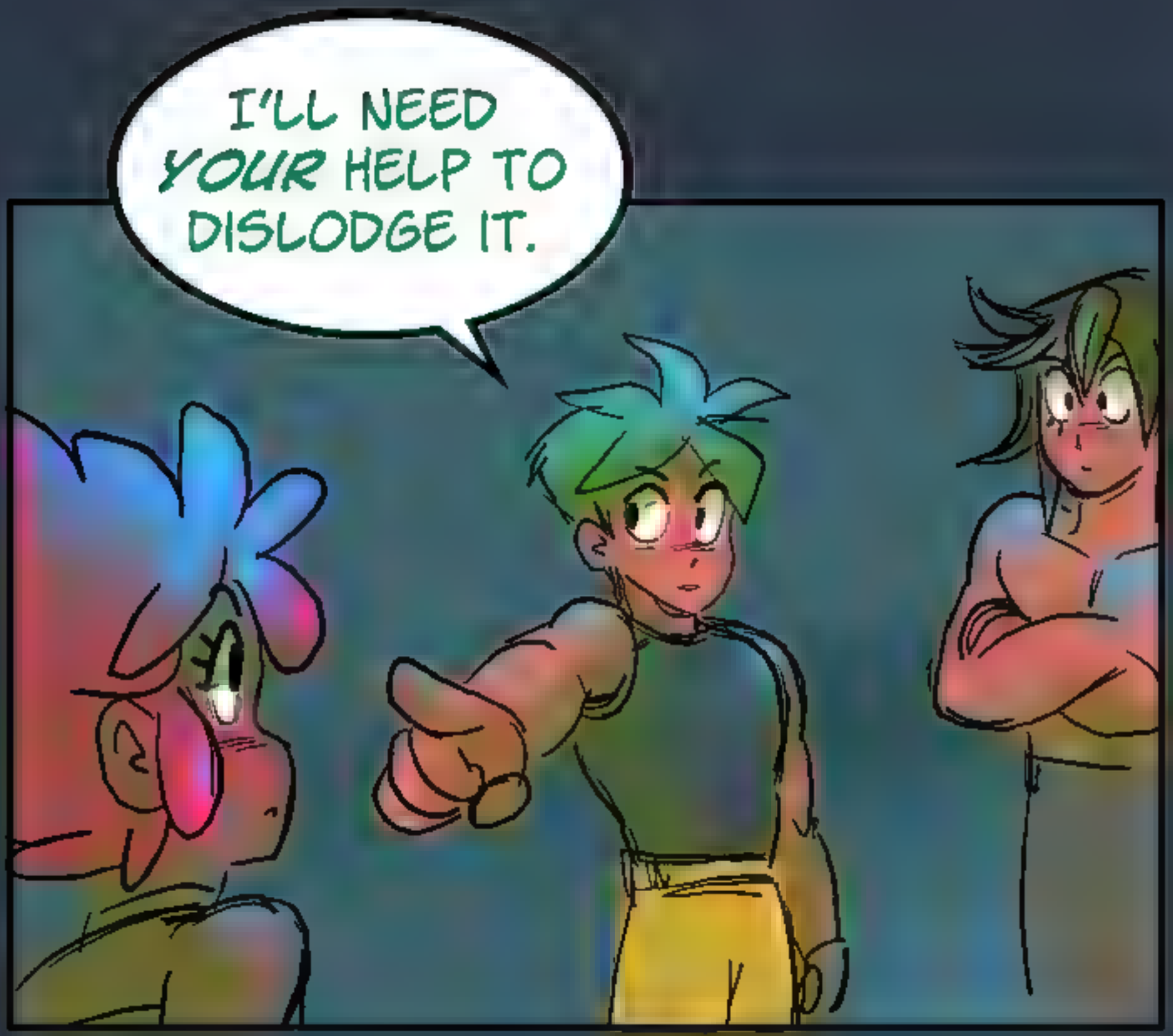



THAT DOOR ISN'T LOCKED, IS IT?

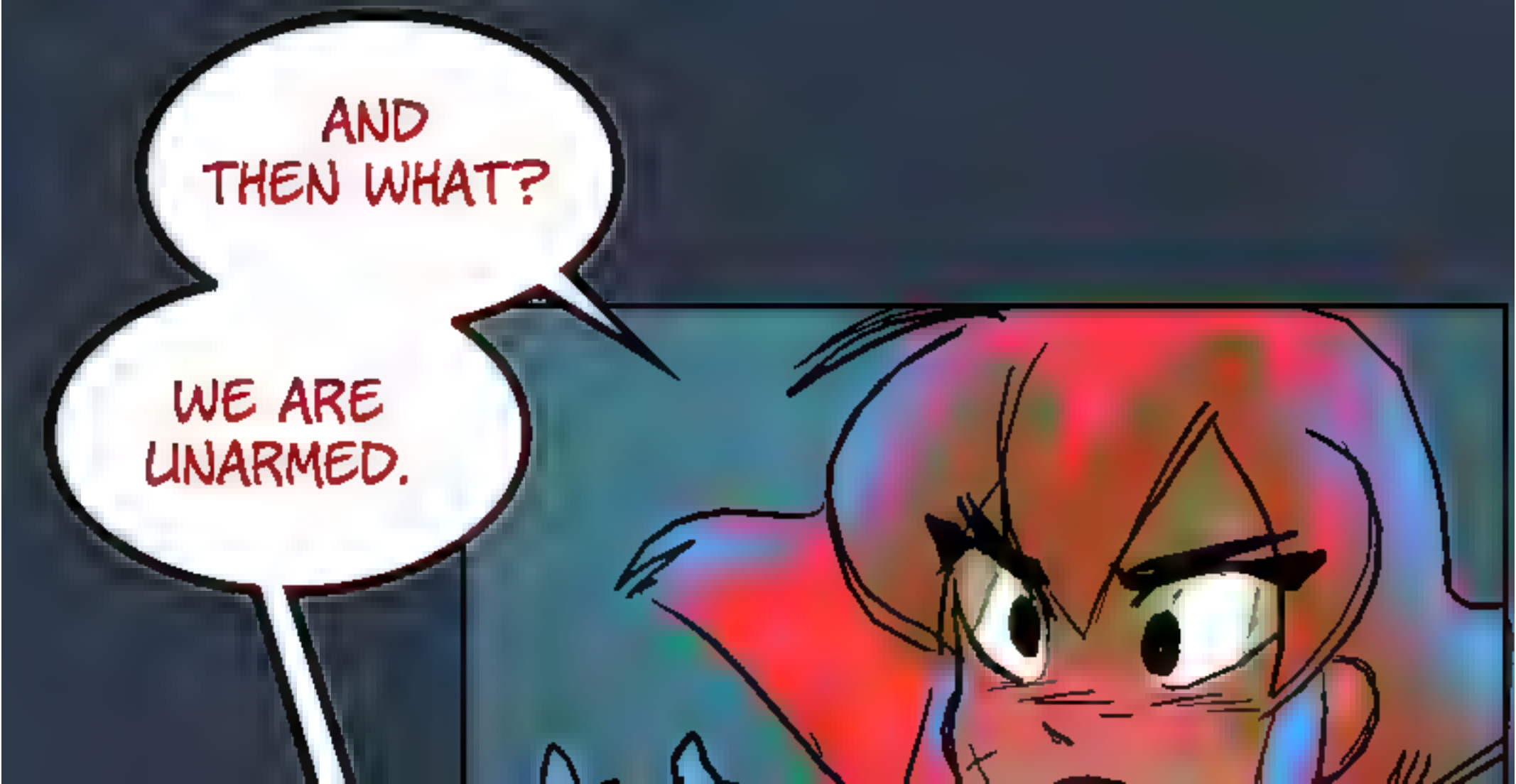


NOT LOCKED, BUT PROBABLY WEIGHS A TON, AND WELL OUT OF REACH.

I SHOULD BE ABLE TO REACH IT WITH MY JUMP BOOTS.

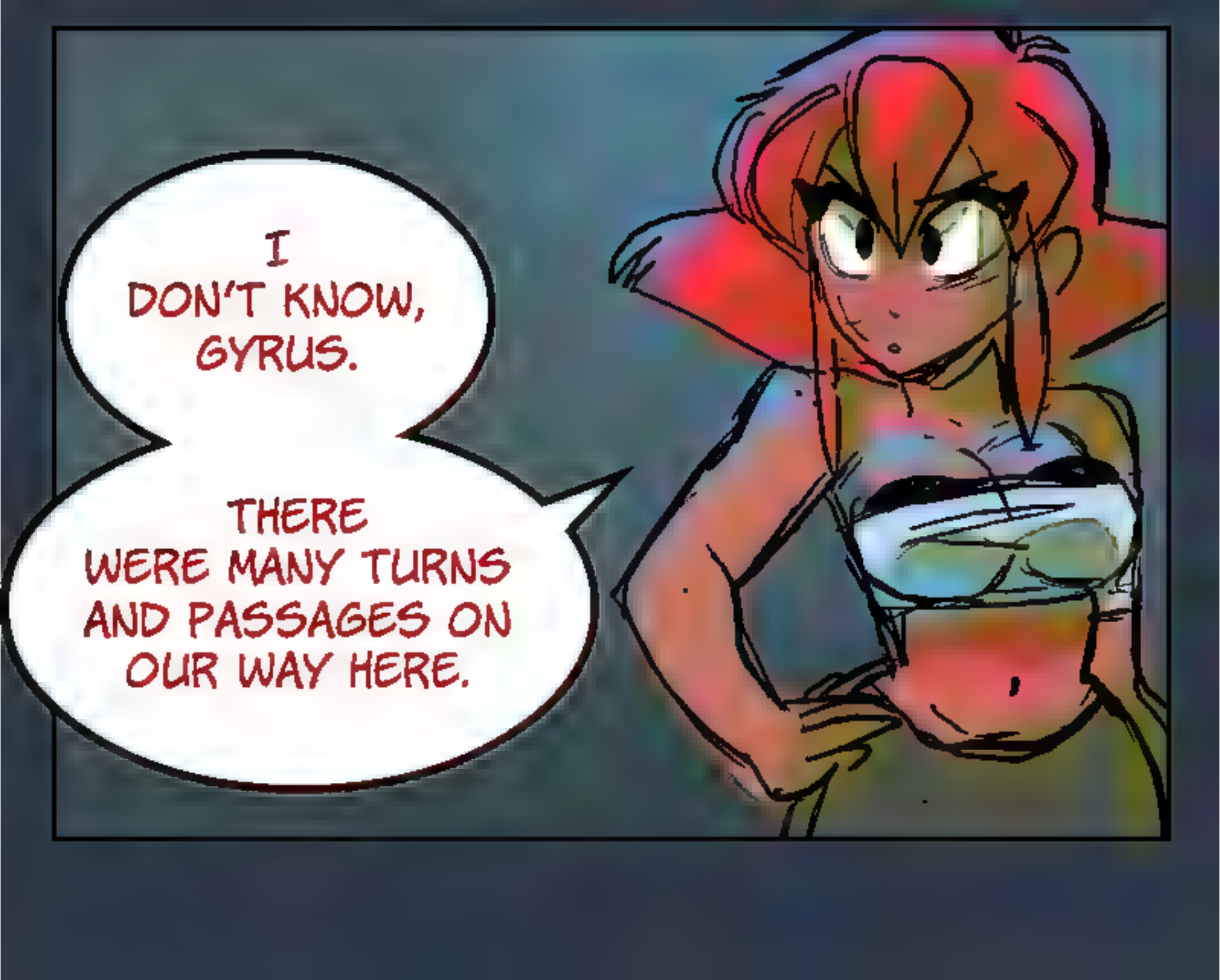

I'LL NEED YOUR HELP TO DISLODGE IT.

THEN I CAN GIVE YOU TWO A LIFT, ONE AT A TIME.


AND THEN WHAT?
WE ARE UNARMED.

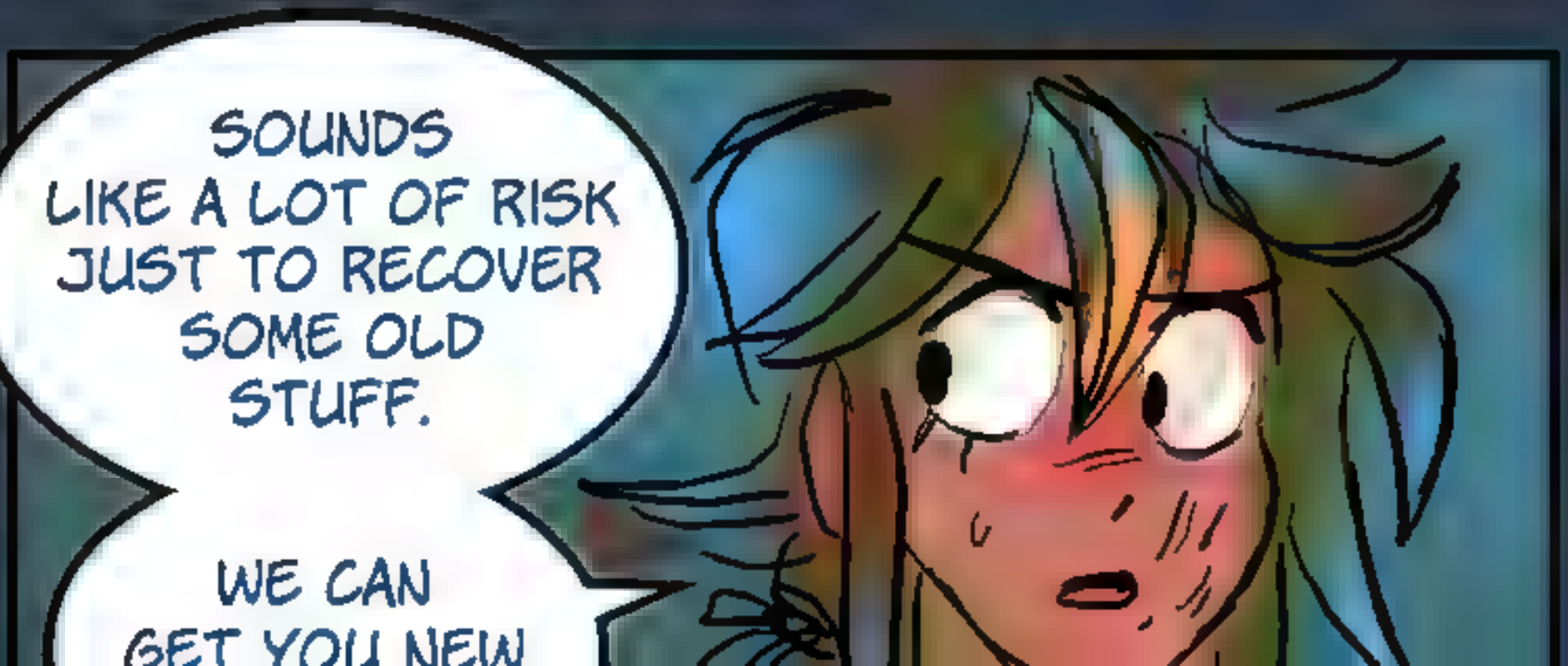
WE ARE LESS EQUIPED TO DEFEND OURSELVES THAN WE WERE BEFORE.
I SAW WHERE THEY TOOK OUR STUFF.
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO BACK TRACK THE WAY THAT

THEY BROUGHT
US HERE.


I DON'T KNOW, GYRUS.
THERE WERE MANY TURNS AND PASSAGES ON OUR WAY HERE.

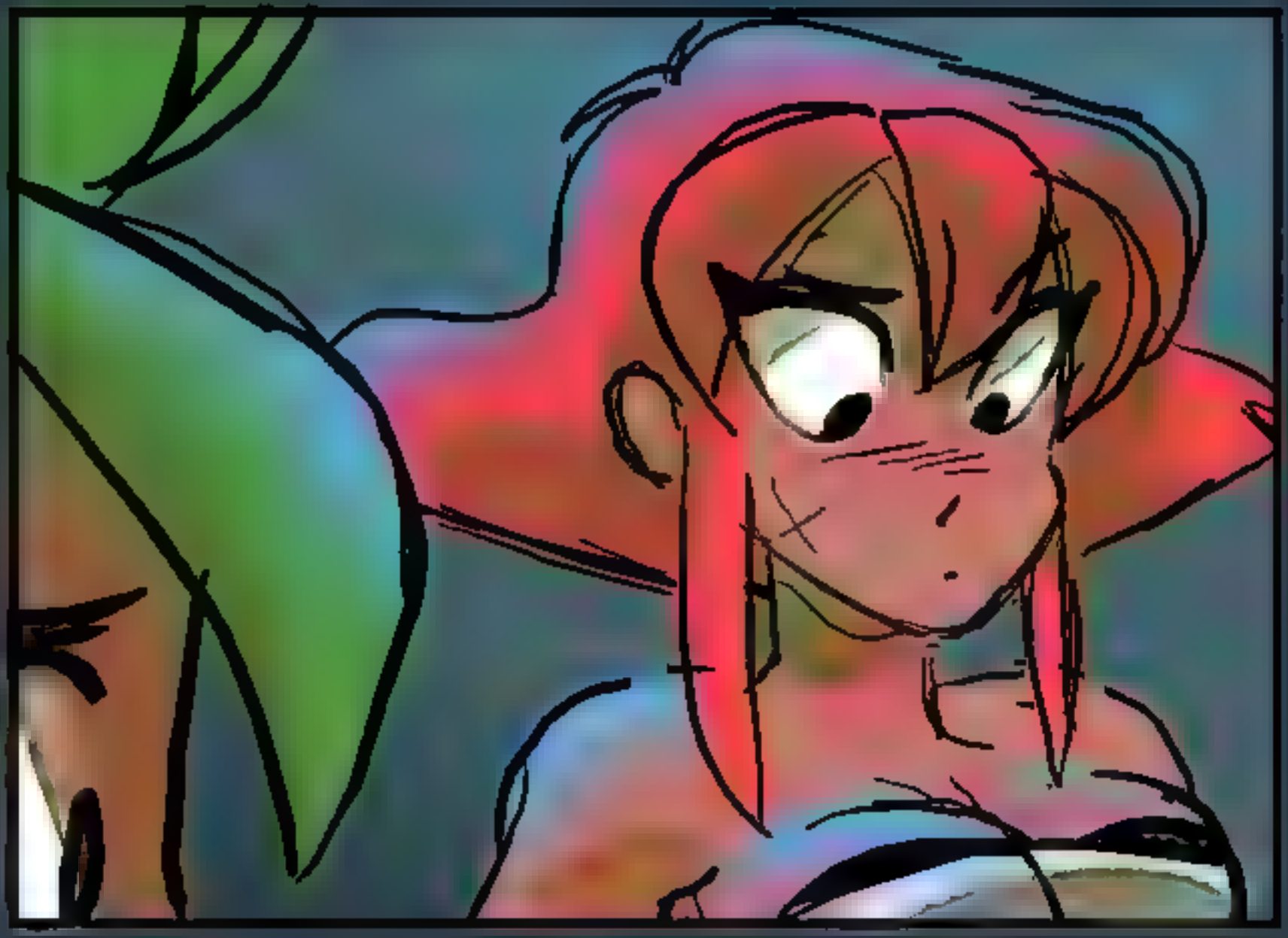
IT'S TRUE. THIS PLACE IS A MAZE. IT'LL PROBABLY BE A WASTE OF TIME.

NO, I'LL REMEMBER. I'M SURE.

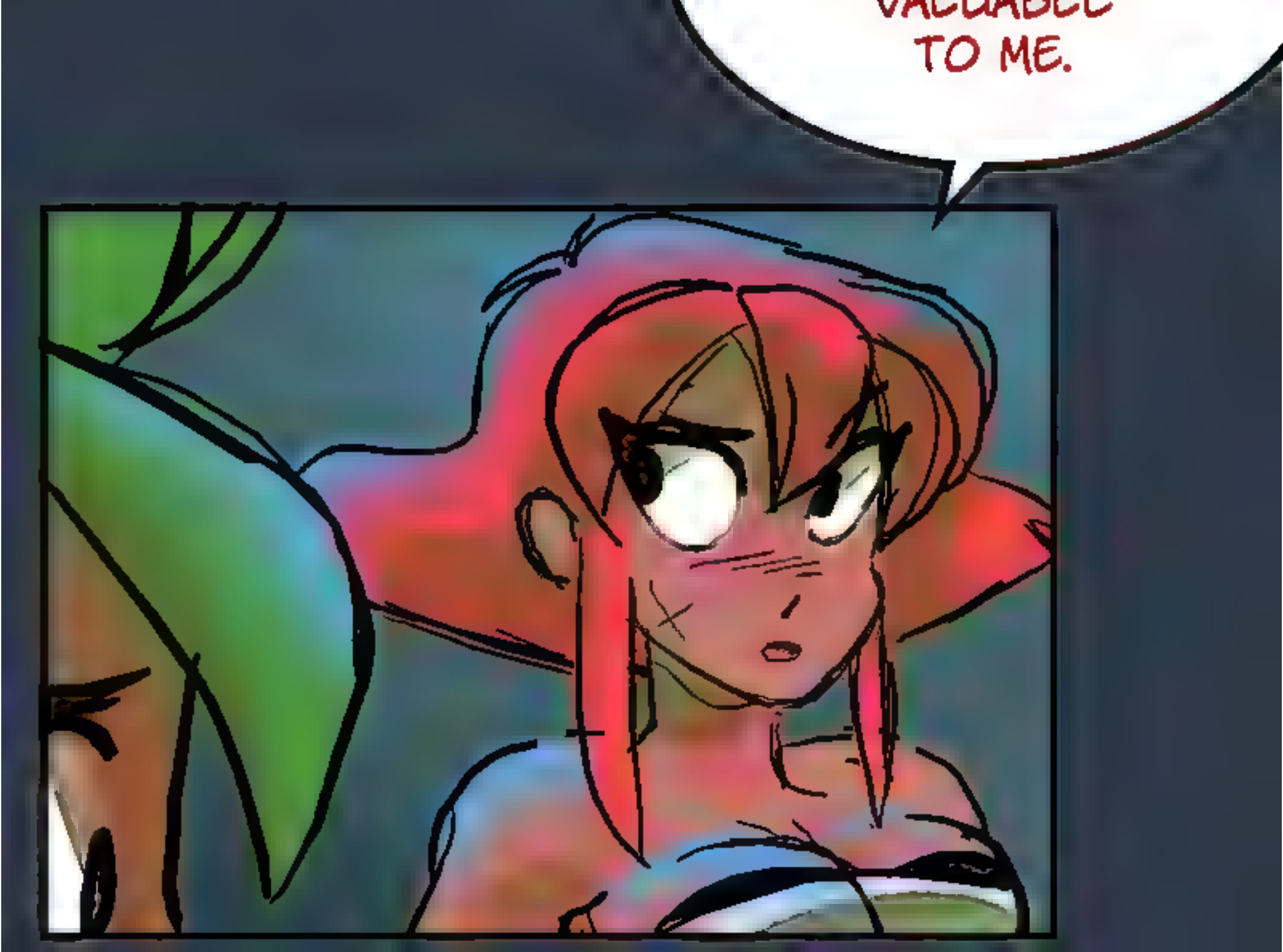

SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF RISK JUST TO RECOVER SOME OLD STUFF.
WE CAN GET YOU NEW

GEAR.
NO.

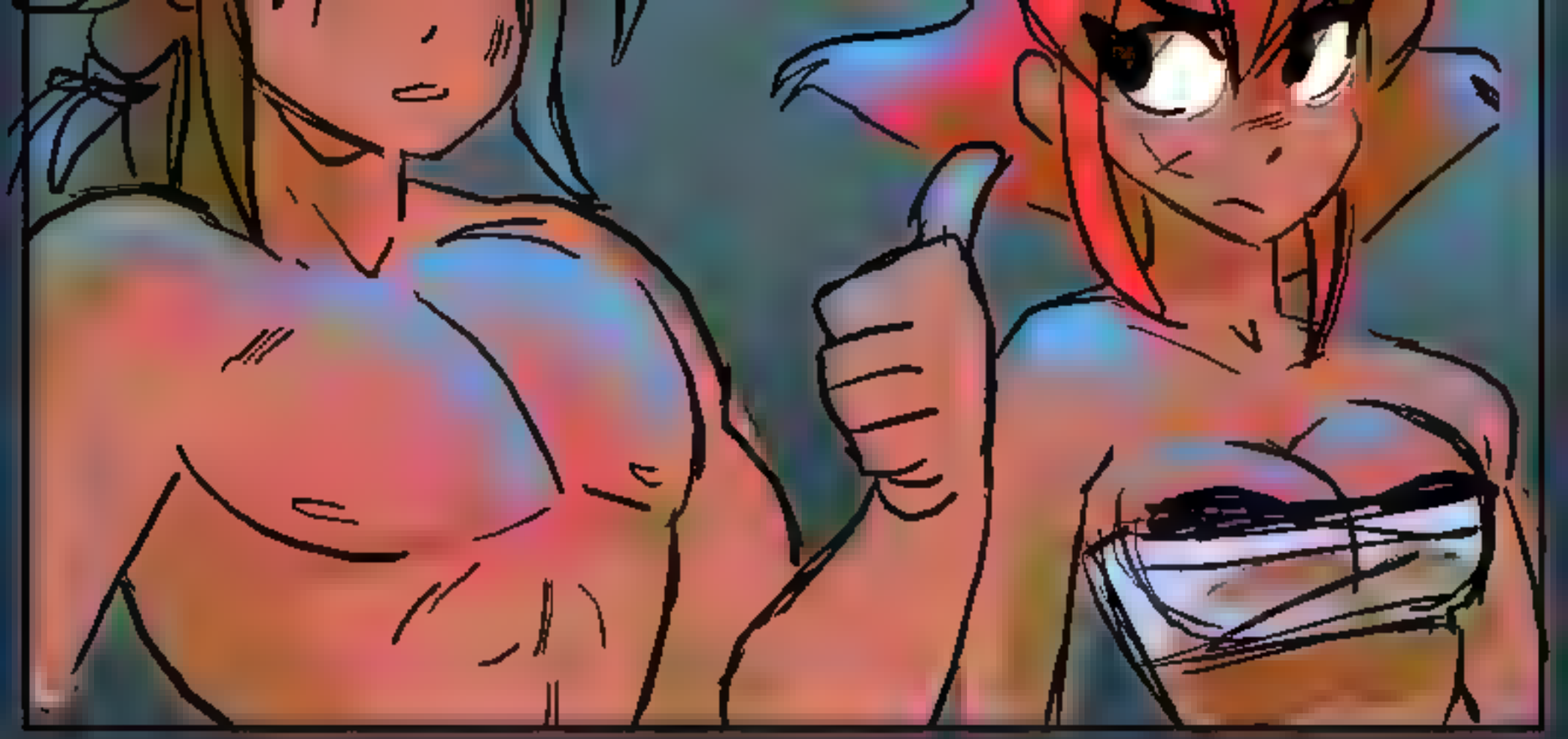
I NEED TO FIND SCOUT...
I MADE A PROMISE.



HE'S RIGHT.
MY ARMOR AND
SWORD ARE VERY


VALUABLE
TO ME.

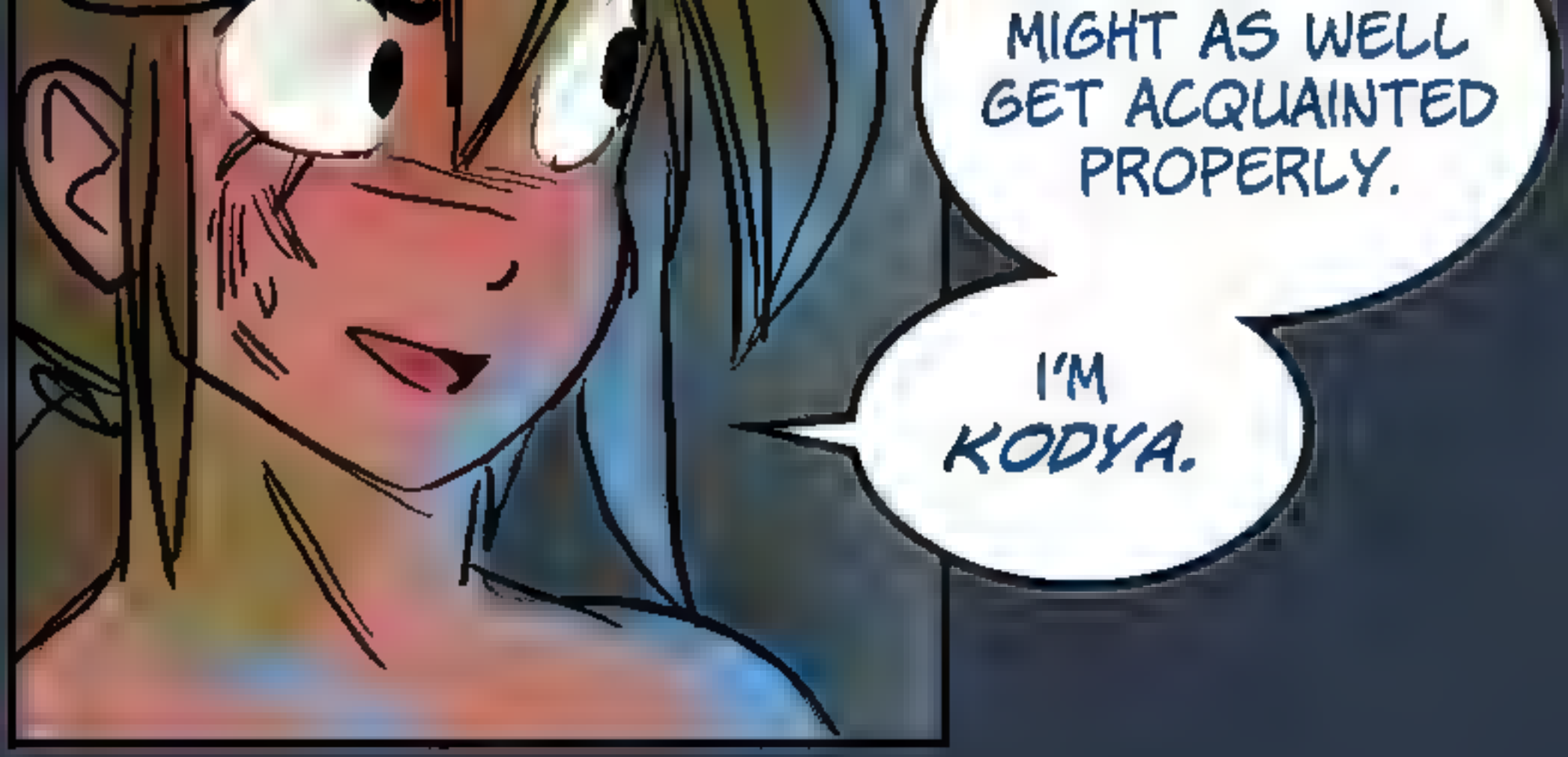
FINE.
LET'S GET TO IT, THEN. RED AND I WILL WAIT WHILE YOU OPEN THE DOOR.



SPARE ME THY CHILDISH NICKNAMES. I WILL THANK YE TO

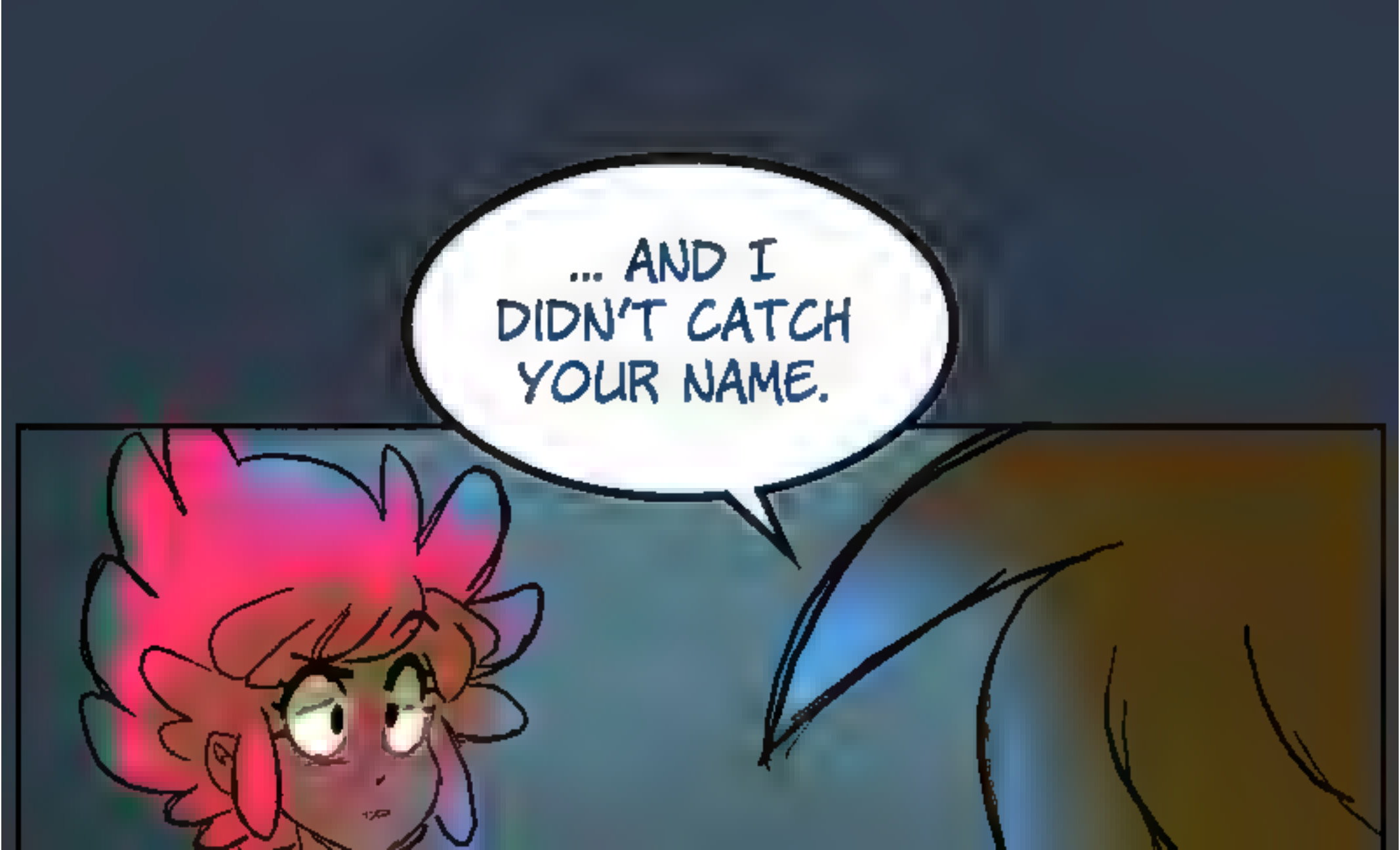
ADDRESS ME
AS TORI.

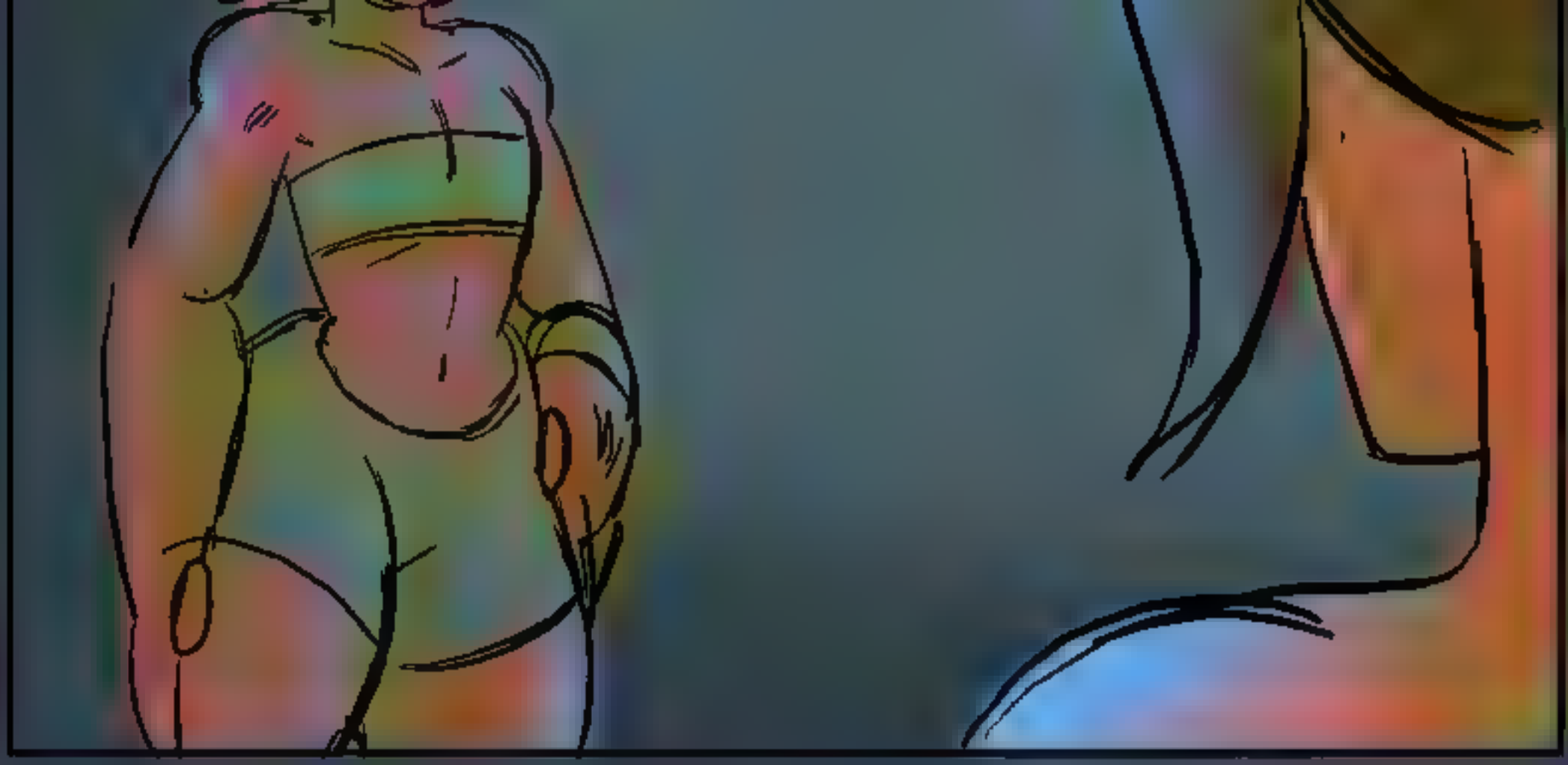
FINE.

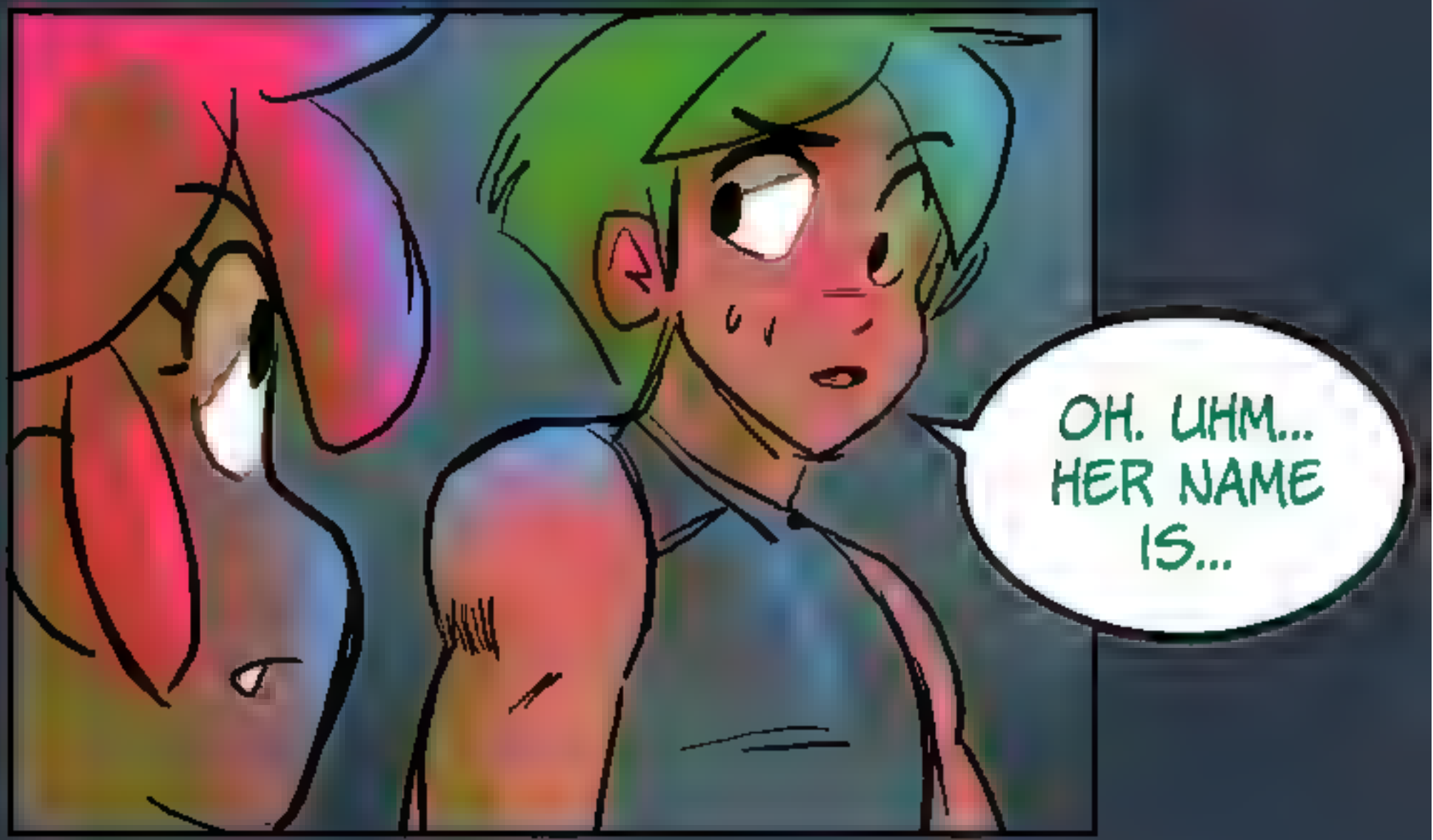

MIGHT AS WELL GET ACQUAINTED PROPERLY.
I'M KODYA.

YOU'RE GYRUS.

TORI


... AND I DIDN'T CATCH YOUR NAME.




OH. UHM... HER NAME IS...

PLEASE ENTER A NAME.

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A B C D E F G H I J
K L M N O P Q R S T
U V W X Y Z , . + -
a b c d e f g h i j
k l m n o p q r s t
u v w x y z : ;
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

SPACE
DELETE
SELECT
DEFAULT

ROOM OF SWORDS

/CHAPTER 19 END\

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